

A new twist on Internet dating
Local HIV prevention worker
launches a Web site to foster safe sex.
page 21

A dark horse comes to SF
Presidential candidate Dennis
Kucinich stumps for gay votes.
page 16



Both sides now
John Kelly is Joni Mitchell
at the ODC Theatre.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 40 • 2 October 2003

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

'Mighty Real' 30th annual Castro Street Fair Sun.

by Zak Szymanski

Even before Harvey Milk became the city's first openly gay supervisor, his energies went toward empowering gays and organizing his fellow Castro residents and merchants to take pride in their neighborhood. With his launch of the Castro Street Fair in 1974, the community had a visible and successful event, and moreover, an innovative way to mobilize and unite.

This Sunday, October 5, marks the 30th anniversary of the celebrated fair, an event that has remained neighborhood oriented while continuing to grow and attract a diverse crowd.

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., swarms of locals will mill about the variety of offerings along the blocks between Castro and Market streets, which will be closed to traffic.

As always, the fair will include vendor and information booths and live entertainment. This year's fair will also feature some new influences, most notably a tribute to disco legend Sylvester, one of the neighborhood's biggest stars.

Funked up

Sylvester, who has been called Castro's first openly gay performer, began as a gospel singer and later worked with groups like the Cockettes before launching his solo career. Best known for his 1978 hit, "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)," he never forgot where he came from, and donated much of his time to the San Francisco community, including the Castro Street Fair, before he died of AIDS complications in 1988.

"Sylvester was the greatest star of the Castro Street Fair and one of the greatest stars the neighborhood has ever produced," said Steven Gaynes, Castro Street Fair board president. "He went way out of his way to perform at the fair many times during the 1980s, and as this is our 30th year we wanted to do something very special for somebody who was really special to us."

In tribute, this year's main stage will be known as the "Mighty Real" stage, and all the featured performers will be covering Sylvester songs. Produced by Richard Winchester, the main stage will feature hot acts such as the tranny rocker group Pepperspray; the instrumental surf rockers the Ayua Velvets; the 1950s big band drag group The Woodyz; the hard rocking juxtaposition of The Ethel

page 14 ▶



Jane Philomen Cleland

A hot time at Folsom

The Folsom Street Fair celebrated its 20th anniversary as the world's largest leather SM event Sunday, September 28. Above, Joey Sequeira, left, and Julian Marshawn get into the spirit of the street fair which featured just about everything. Thousands of people attended the event, produced by Folsom Street Events. Proceeds from Sunday's fair and the Up Your Alley street fair held this summer will be distributed after this year to several local charities.

Gay youth struggle to feel at home in Castro

by Matthew S. Bajko

The dozen or so young adults gathered at Tully's in the Castro on the last Thursday night of each month come to show off their spoken word ability, mingle with friends, and enjoy at least one evening where they feel like a welcomed part of the city's gay neighborhood.

Since August, the members of Kickin' It – an HIV prevention group for young black men sponsored by the city's health department and overseen by the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center – have been using the coffee nights to make a positive impact within the neighborhood.

"The whole focus and purpose is to help jump-start a community and LYRIC collabora-



LYRIC's Kar Yin Tham

ration. The merchants and neighbors don't have a sense of what's going on inside LYRIC," explained Renol Rutherford, Kickin' It's coordinator since April. "By bringing the program outside LYRIC, the community can see what is going on inside LYRIC."

The coffee shop nights are just one part of a multi-pronged approach the queer youth agency has embarked on

in recent weeks to improve its relations with residents and business owners in the Castro.

After a year as executive director of LYRIC, Kar Yin Tham is turning her attention to an

page 22 ▶

Ailing gay prisoner freed

by Ed Walsh

Ailing gay prisoner was freed last week after winning his three-year-long battle against Governor Gray Davis for parole.

Mark Smith, 47, walked out of prison on Thursday, September 25 for the first time since his arrest for murder in 1985. He became the first person to be released from prison despite Davis's order to stop the parole of convicted murderers. His case can now be cited by hundreds of other prisoners who are fighting the state for freedom.

"I'm just so grateful to everyone who helped,"

Smith told the Bay Area Reporter in an exclusive interview on Monday, September 29. Smith explained that his parole wouldn't have been possible without his attorneys Rowan Klein and Don Specter and without the support of his mother, Dolores Padilla.

Smith was convicted of second-degree murder for the 1985 killing of Rick Diamon in Topanga Canyon, in Los Angeles County. A judge found that although Smith didn't kill Diamon, he was guilty as an accomplice. Diamon, a reputed drug dealer, was shot and drowned in a dispute over taint-

page 23 ▶

INSIDE

BAR Talk	51
Classifieds	27
Crime & Punishment	14
Mailstrom	9
Mister Marcus	48
Obituaries	25
Open Forum	8
Our Man Friday	11
Out There	34
Out & About	44
Personals	52
Queer Careers	24
Sports Complex	26
Transmissions	12

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AEF removes client caps

by Matthew S. Bajko

After capping the number of people who could access its services last January, the AIDS Emergency Fund is reversing course.

The agency has announced that starting October 1, those previously denied eligibility for emergency funding can now apply.

AEF clients whose eligibility date for renewing their grants was between January 1 and September 30, 2003 and were denied assistance or did not apply due to the policy change may now be eligible for immediate help if they meet all other guidelines. To receive financial aid, clients must have a diagnosis of disabling HIV or AIDS, be residents of San Francisco, and have an income at or below \$1,900 a month.

As of October 1, all renewing clients are eligible for up to \$500 per year from the date of their last grant, regardless of how many years they have received assistance. Last December, AEF announced that clients who had accessed grants in any two consecutive years since January 1997 would no longer be eligible for assistance.

"I am now delighted and relieved that because of our recent fundraising successes, internal belt tightening, and additional federal funds received from the Ryan White CARE Act, we will now be able to serve many of these clients disabled by HIV who face emergencies."

Adding to its financial burdens, the agency's Ryan White funds have dropped from \$1.2 million five years ago to \$600,000 last year. Although, "our client load stayed constant every year," noted Mike Smith, AEF's executive director.

Due to the three years of consecutive steep losses and dwindling reserves, the agency made the changes to its eligibility requirements last December. The change meant many San Francisco residents, who are battling HIV and AIDS and are too sick to pay their basic living expenses, would be denied help in covering the cost of their rent, utilities and medical



Mister Marcus

agency financial need whom we would not have been able to help otherwise," said Dr. Jeff Braff, president of AEF's board of directors, in announcing the agency's policy change.

Since 2000, the agency has lost a total of \$900,000 in funding, with AEF running a \$635,000 deficit in 2002 alone. The agency has an annual budget between \$1.6 and \$1.8 million.

In 2001, the agency was looking at a loss of \$600,000 but received a \$400,000 estate bequest. Over the last five years, the agency has also cut its reserve funds in half, from \$2 million down to less than \$1 million, in order to cover its operating expenses.

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bills.

The agency estimated that nearly 900 clients were impacted by the change in eligibility. Those people who were turned away during the last nine months are now eligible for \$500 in emergency funding.

"I think we will see 900 people if not more," said Smith. "They can come in with past-due or shut-off notices from PG&E or their telephone company or make arrangements to make payments for rent. Most people use the money for rent."

Last year, AEF served 2,700 clients, and with the rule change reversal, Smith said the agency expects to help the same number this year. So far in 2003, the agency has helped 1,800 people pay overdue bills.

"It is a great sigh of relief. No one on the board or staff wanted to implement what we had to do in January," said Smith. "We are relieved and optimistic."

As of September 18, the agency had surpassed its income targets for the year by \$202,000, primarily through donations from private sources, community fundraising, and reduced costs. Its "Casino Royale" fundraiser prior to Pride this year raised \$105,000.

"We have always had consistent grassroots support. We still got all that," said Smith. "What dried up for us is corporate and foundation money. We are starting to see some of that money come back up."

The casino event garnered \$50,000 in corporate sponsorship and raised more money than past annual events the agency has hosted.

"We did a silent auction and a live auction for the first time," said Smith. "There was an open bar which got people to up bids on the silent auction."

In addition to its fundraising successes, the agency recently received an additional \$234,000 in its federal Ryan White CARE Act dollars from the city's HIV Health

page 27 ►

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The stars come out at Falcon

Famed Falcon Studios director Chi-Chi LaRue, center, shows the pleasures of one of her stars, Cade Devlin, right, while another star looks on at the Falcon Studios release party for its new movie, *Drenched*, held Friday, September 26 at the South of Market headquarters of the gay adult entertainment company. Local political leaders, Falcon exclusive models, Falcon customers, and other guests attended the Hollywood-style party.

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Bail reduced in Ron Hill case as credibility questions surface

by Cynthia Laird

Ex-Health Commissioner Ronald Gene Hill saw his bail reduced on charges he intentionally infected two ex-lovers with HIV, while his defense attorney questioned the credibility of both of Hill's former sexual partners, saying that one participated in barebacking adult movies and the other waited two years before going to authorities.

During a hearing in San Francisco Superior Court Tuesday, September 30, Judge Kay Tsennin reduced Hill's bail to \$40,000 from \$100,000. Hill, 46, last week pleaded not guilty to the charges. At press time, he remained in jail and his lawyer told the court it was unlikely Hill would make bail. Deputy Public Defender Peter Fitzpatrick had sought to have Hill released on his own recognizance, but Tsennin denied that request.

Hill was indicted by a San Francisco grand jury last month. He was arrested at his home in Grass Valley, in Nevada County, on September 16, and transferred to the San Francisco County Jail on September 21.

"Thomas L. participated in adult movies," Fitzpatrick told the court, referring to Thomas Lister, Hill's ex-lover who has waged a dogged campaign to see criminal charges brought against Hill by the district attorney's office. "The movies he claimed to have participated in are under the barebacking section."

Fitzpatrick produced copies of information about the movies, made by Treasure Island Media. One film is entitled *Swallow*, and the other is entitled *Animals*.

"Okay, I get the idea," Tsennin said.

Lister, in press accounts, has maintained that he met Hill on-

line in early 2000. He has steadfastly maintained that he did not know Hill's HIV status, despite the fact that Hill was public about his status when he was appointed to the Health Commission by Mayor Willie Brown in 1997. Hill resigned from the commission in October 2000 after he was arrested on suspicion of writing bad checks at a Sonoma County furniture store.

In an e-mail statement to the Bay Area Reporter, Lister acknowledged being in an adult video.

"Nearly four years ago I participated in an adult video in which I did not engage in unsafe sex. As my relationship with the defendant became more serious, I felt an obligation to disclose the information to him," Lister stated.

Lister also said that he made the information available to the district attorney's office early in its investigation. "I presumed that the defendant, in a weak attempt to discredit me, would bring it up at some point during the case," Lister stated. "Beyond that it has absolutely no relevance to the specific case at hand."

Lister, 36, maintains that he discovered Hill was HIV-positive while the pair was on a cruise five months into their relationship. He received word from his doctor in late October 2000 that he had become HIV-positive.

Assistant District Attorney Greg Barge sought to have the court uphold Hill's bail, saying the former commissioner was a threat to public safety.

Fitzpatrick also produced an e-mail, sent by Hill to Lister, that reminded Lister that he "had the clap" when he first met Hill, despite Lister's allegation that he got a sexually transmitted disease from Hill.

"He directly contradicts himself," Fitzpatrick said.

Tsennin set a trial date for November 14. ▼

with medical records, and contradictory evidence."

In his e-mail, Lister said that because the case has begun in court, he is unable to make any further statements or speculations related to any aspect of the case.

Barge also raised credibility issues, saying that while Hill may have been open about his HIV status in his public life, he kept it from his sexual partners.

"This individual has been false with his partners in private, regardless of how he was in his public and political life," Barge said. "The case has all the earmarks of sexual assault."

Fitzpatrick disputed that characterization, saying Hill has not been charged with sexual assault, but a section of the California Health and Safety Code. The law Hill is charged with is a seldom-used statute that states that any person who exposes another to HIV by engaging in unprotected sexual activity is guilty of a felony, when the infected person 1) knows he/she is infected; 2) has not disclosed his/her HIV-positive status; and 3) acts with the intent to infect the other person with HIV.

Fitzpatrick also discussed the alleged second victim, identified only as Christopher M, telling the court that the man only came forward after news of Lister winning a \$5 million default civil judgment against Hill was publicized in the media.

Fitzpatrick said that Christopher M told the grand jury that Hill was the only person with whom he had unprotected sex, but the lawyer said that the man allegedly had unprotected sex eight months prior to meeting Hill.

"He directly contradicts himself," Fitzpatrick said.

Tsennin set a trial date for November 14. ▼

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Shanti hopes layoffs will avoid budget crisis

by Matthew S. Bajko

In an effort to head off a budget crisis, Shanti is laying off nearly a dozen employees and instituting a restructuring plan to improve services and strengthen its financial position.

Up to 12 positions in the organization will be eliminated or reconfigured by the end of October. The staff cuts come on the heels of the AIDS agency's annual awards gala and motorcycle ride fundraisers later this month.

The two-year restructuring plan, which the agency says will consolidate parallel functions by closer collaboration between and integrated management of programs, will also modernize fiscal and administrative systems to create sustaining operating reserves.

"It makes us more responsive to the needs of the people we serve," said Shanti Executive Director Hywel Sims. "It's been difficult but we hope it works."

Sims and four top managers are taking a one-month pay cut this year equaling \$35,000. The agency expects the reductions in staff and salaries will save it \$900,000 over the next two years. The other staff have not been asked to do the same.

"Shanti staff have not had raises in four years, at least, which is why I was keen to protect the current level of salaries," said Sims.

Despite the loss of employees, Sims said the measures will not result in a loss of services to clients.

"We decided to make some changes now rather than take perhaps more substantial changes later," said Sims. "We've had increasing concerns from the economy and how that's affecting our fundraising over the last year."

Most of the employee layoffs will come from the agency's finance, administration, and development areas. One director, four managers, a trainer, two administrative positions, and three drivers are being laid off.

Two other positions, one in finance and one in development, are having their hours reduced. The layoffs mean an 18 percent cut in staffing, leaving the agency with 46 employees.

"We wanted not to reduce services we provide to people with HIV and breast cancer. We have tried to reduce positions in places where we could avoid having to cut services," said Sims.

The agency is, however, recruiting for a new director of development and communication. The position to date has yet to be filled.

"My predecessor worked both

as an executive director and director of development. Not to have that position would limit us," said Sims, who was hired as Shanti's executive director nine months ago at an annual salary of \$130,000.

The agency's board approved the restructuring plan on Monday, September 15 and staff members were notified of the changes on September 16 and 17.

Shanti, which has an annual budget of \$4.1 million, has seen its

page 27 ►



Shanti's Hywel Sims

Liz Hendrickson out on the bench

by Zak Szymanski

A strong interest in family law and equality has driven the successful career of Alameda County attorney Liz Hendrickson, and on Wednesday, October 1, Hendrickson marked another milestone when she was sworn in as an Alameda County Superior Court commissioner.

To Hendrickson's knowledge, this is the first time an openly lesbian commissioner will serve on the court, although one openly gay judge, Hugh Walker, currently serves. Commissioners differ from judges only in slight ways; while judges are either elected or appointed by the governor, commissioners are hired by judges to perform many of the same duties.

"I'll do most of the same things. I'll have a courtroom, and will hear family law, probate, traffic, small claims, and some criminal cases," Hendrickson told the Bay Area Reporter. "Most people, I think, don't notice the difference [between the positions]."

Hendrickson, 53, is an Albany resident who has been practicing law in the Bay Area since 1979. She served as executive director of the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights from 1991 to 1995. She also has a strong background in domestic violence issues, winning a Berkeley Law Foundation grant in 1982, which she used to found the Domestic Violence Law Project in Alameda County. She is also one of the founders of A Safe Place, which is a shelter in Oakland. After her position at NCLR, she returned to private practice in Oakland, and has taught at Golden Gate University and the University of California.

nia. "I'm very familiar with this system; I've appeared in every courthouse, and know many of the judges and a lot of the lawyers," said Hendrickson. "It's a community I've been a part of my whole adult life. I'm very comfortable here and very happy to be able to work here."

Hendrickson applied for the job about a year ago and learned of her hiring about a month ago. She replaces Beverly Daniels-Greenberg, who was appointed as a judge by Governor Gray Davis on August 13.

As commissioner, said Hendrickson, she hopes to represent and reflect the diversity that is Alameda County.

"It's a diverse bench; there are many women, and many different races represented. It's a diverse county. And I hope to provide some additional diversity by being a lesbian who has been involved in LGBT issues for a number of years, and I think that will benefit the court in terms of providing additional expertise and access to information."

Her hiring is "especially timely," she said, given the recent signing of AB205, the expansive Domestic Partners Rights and Responsibilities Act. Although now being challenged in court, the new law seeks to grant most of the rights to same-sex couples that are currently available only to married spouses. If AB205 is enacted as planned, that means "more and more members of our community will be using the courts to end their relationships," said Hendrickson, "and I expect our courts to be sensitive to members of our community, as they have been in the past." ▼

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Vote NO on Prop 54

Ward Connerly is back.

The right-wing fanatic appointed by Pete Wilson has come up with yet another ballot initiative to promote racial inequality in California: Proposition 54.

What is Proposition 54?

Proposition 54 – the Information Ban – would bar state and local agencies from collecting and analyzing data on race and ethnicity. While collecting “data” might not seem important, state and local governments rely on this information to guarantee equal rights for all Californians.

If passed Prop 54 would Destroy Public Health Programs:

Our public health system relies on data about race and ethnicity to target programs that will reduce the rates of breast cancer, teen pregnancy, and childhood obesity in certain communities. Some racial and ethnic groups are more likely to suffer from certain health problems than others. Prop 54 would destroy the ability of our public health programs to develop life-saving prevention programs.

Promote Workplace and Housing Discrimination:

Tens of thousands of Californians report workplace and housing discrimination every year to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. Prop 54 will block this Department from gathering information on discrimination based on race or ethnicity. Without this information, the State of California will not be able to enforce anti-discrimination laws.

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This Recall is an abuse of the initiative process by wealthy individuals and it is unfair and unjust. It is a dangerous precedent to Recall a Governor just because you don't like him. If successful, it could lead to perpetual recalls in this state.

November 2002 was a legal election. A choice was made by the majority of California citizens. The current Governor has not committed an act that justifies this recall. It disenfranchises and makes null and void the votes cast by high numbers of ethnic voters who turned out in the last election. It is an effort, like the one in Florida, to take an election by any means necessary, even if it means buying it. California is the 8th largest economy in the world, which has already been seriously damaged by this measure. The instability created by this recall will set in motion a trend that is bad for California and the world. Don't Be Fooled By Fools – Vote NO.

Help stop these dangerous measures on October 7

Both are opposed by the Harvey Milk LGBT and the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Clubs.



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Gay cops drop lawsuit threat over promotions

by Matthew S. Bajko

A simple date change for a police advancement test could mean the San Francisco Police Department will have its first openly gay lieutenant by 2005 and has fended off potential litigation against the department.

The test, known as the Q60 Examination, is offered to police sergeants with at least three years' experience on the job. Those who pass the test then make it onto a list of potential candidates the department can select to become lieutenants.

As of three weeks ago, the exam had been slated to take place in April and would have effectively meant nearly 50 sergeants, several of them gay and lesbian, would not have met the three-year time requirement. If the department only offers the test every three years, then the next time they could then take the test would have been in 2007.

When members of the Pride Alliance, a gay and lesbian police organization, inquired why the test could not be postponed in order to include those sergeants, police brass and police union officials initially refused to change

the test date, sources said.

In response, at least one gay sergeant had threatened to sue the department and began leaking word to members of the gay community about the plans for a lawsuit. Gay police officers also had planned to storm the September 24 meeting of the police commission to air their grievances with the department's decision.

However, after the *Bay Area Reporter* began making inquiries about the test date late last month, the department changed course.

After pressure from the gay police group, openly gay Police Commissioner Wayne Friday and openly gay District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, the department agreed to postpone the test. On September 25 Police Chief Alex Fagan released a department bulletin "to clarify questions regarding" a police training program and the Q60 Exam, which announced "the department will not administer the next Q60 until after September 15, 2004. HOWEVER, NO DATE HAS BEEN SET."

The decision was met with praise from the gay officers, who credited the formation of the gay officers group and support from government officials in getting the

test date pushed back.

"There is no litigation at all regarding this. We came to a sense of agreement between the officers and the administration," said openly gay Sergeant Chuck Limbert, who had pushed the department to change the date.

Limbert, as well as Pride Alliance co-chair Inspector Sergeant Lea Militello, will be eligible to take the lieutenants exam next fall, along with 47 other sergeants who are now also eligible for the test.

"I am glad the department worked well with this and took under advisement our suggestion and postponed the test," said Limbert. "For the first time we will have an opportunity for advancement of gay men." The department has had lesbian lieutenants for years.

While one openly gay sergeant, Jim Bosch, currently is on the lieutenants list, he ranks low on the list and has been out on disability due to an on-the-job injury. In August, when the department announced promotions for officers, he was once again passed over. ▀

Full disclosure: Police Commissioner Wayne Friday is the political editor for the *B.A.R.*

LGBT clubs organize anti-recall, Prop. 54 events

by Zak Szymanski

Love or hate Governor Gray Davis, the likely alternative of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, say activists, means California probably will swing to the right and President George Bush will be all the more likely to win re-election.

Stopping the recall, and defeating Proposition 54 – the initiative that prohibits the collection of racial data for public health policies – are the two main goals of the city's LGBT Democratic groups this week, who once again are working together on the issues with which they agree.

On Saturday, October 4, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club will hold a press conference at 10 a.m. at the Democratic Party headquarters at 1360 Mission Street, on the second floor.

There, the groups will announce a joint door hanging effort

through San Francisco voting districts that will begin immediately and run through the weekend. Prominent elected officials and political candidates are expected to be in attendance. The goal is to walk 130 precincts in two days to educate San Franciscans residents on the need to vote in the special election on Tuesday, October 7.

"To work with Alice on the issues we agree with is the right thing to do. We are stronger together," said Robert Haaland, president of the Milk Club. "It's important for San Franciscans to know how close the recall is and how close Proposition 54 is to passing, which is bad public policy."

On Tuesday, October 7, the clubs will also organize "Get Out The Vote" activities all day.

"It's important to keep Gray Davis in office for a lot of reasons," said Rich Kowalewski, co-chair of the Alice Club. "The recall is inappropriate because he didn't do anything wrong and was just elected a year ago. Plus there's all the issue we agree with him on, including

transgender nondiscrimination and domestic partnership rights."

More and more, said Kowalewski, it looks as though California will either keep Davis, a Democrat, or elect Schwarzenegger, and "Governor Arnold," he said, will not be a good governor for California.

"He tries to convey that he's a moderate Republican but the Republican hierarchy is not moderate at all. We all know he never could have won an open Republican primary for governor because he's not conservative enough. So we have to assume they're going to try to pull him more to the right every day."

All concerned San Franciscans are invited and encouraged to attend Saturday's event and the Tuesday, October 7 activities, whether by taking the day off on Tuesday or coming in before or after work. The party headquarters at 1360 Mission Street is located in the South of Market District, at 10th Street. For more information, call (415) 240-0747. ▀



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Don't be fooled by the surface appeal of Proposition 54, the "Racial Privacy Initiative." Prop 54 is about ignorance, not privacy.

Prop 54 pretends that we live in a society in which race and difference don't matter. The fact is, they do, affecting lives and futures and hopes every day, including those of LGBT people of color. By outlawing the collection of even basic data on race and ethnicity, Prop 54 would make it impossible to develop intelligent, just policies in this wondrously diverse, multicultural State.

WE URGE YOU TO REJECT PROP 54.

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Reject the recall

It's becoming increasingly clear that Tuesday's recall election is coming down to a two-man race between embattled Democratic Governor Gray Davis and Republican actor-turned-politico Arnold Schwarzenegger. Recent polls show a stunning turnaround from just a couple of weeks ago, when Davis appeared to be gaining momentum to thwart the recall attempt. Now, however, barring some last-minute meltdown by Schwarzenegger, it appears that we will have a Republican governor once again. We're reminded of the waning days of the March 2000 battle against Proposition 22, the Knight initiative: we knew it would pass and we felt powerless to stop it. Three years later, we have a sinking feeling the recall will pass and we feel powerless to stop it.

Schwarzenegger is a commanding figure, and his superstar status virtually guarantees a swarm of media attention at his every move. That he has broken his own campaign promises (not to take money from special interests) and is running his own campaign at a deficit (what about that balanced budget, Arnold?) seems to have gone completely unnoticed by the public. Davis is so unpopular – even among fellow Democrats – that his belated attempts to be more caring and personable were simply too little, too late. So, too, were Davis's attempts at seeming more progressive, a term he used for himself just as the recall became a reality. The LGBT community, however, has benefited from the recall by Davis having recently signed bills expanding domestic partner responsibilities and gender nondiscrimination.

Of importance to us is the fact that after nearly two months of campaigning, we really don't know where Schwarzenegger stands on gay issues. We've been told he supports gay rights, yet his own Web site is devoid of the issue, except for this question: What rights do you support for same-sex couples? Schwarzenegger's response is telling for its lack of specifics: "I am for

equal rights for all. I do not support gay marriage. Marriage is unique to a man and women [sic]. That said, I do believe that gay couples are entitled to full protection under the law and should not be discriminated against based on their relationship." Not discriminated against based on our relationships? What does that mean? And what are we to make about the "a man and women" statement? Is Schwarzenegger advocating bigamy?

We hope that after the October 7 election, concerned citizens will mount an aggressive campaign to change the criteria to force a recall. Davis has done nothing criminal to warrant being removed from office. He was re-elected last year. Removing an elected official from office should be a serious en-

deavor, not one that can be bought with a couple of million dollars by the losing party in the last election (in this case, the Republicans). There should be a higher threshold set for recalls. It's time our legislators in Sacramento step up to the plate, end the partisan bickering, and fix this problem.

Despite the dismal numbers for Davis, however, voters must cast their ballots on Tuesday, October 7, and they should reject this recall. (We also remind voters that we urge a vote for Democratic Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante on the replacement list of candidates.) After all, pollsters have said all along that the recall is vastly different from traditional campaigns, and anything can happen. ▼

Editorial

Don't vote for me!

by Ronald Jason Palmieri

As the first openly gay candidate in the history of the United States to be on a ballot as a Democrat for governor of California, or any other state in the Union, I am appalled at the lack of consciousness of many in the gay community as to what is at stake. Monumental rights are at stake and the response has been tepid, at best.

In one fell swoop and in one day, a Republican can steal the governorship of California, the fifth largest economy in the world, with merely a small plurality of votes and set back gay rights for decades. Amazingly, the outcry in a community that can be hurt far greater than most is not mobilizing the forces necessary defeat this transparent attempt to defeat the will of the people.

It is with this backdrop that I decided to enter this race. Not to ask for your vote, which I do not want, but to get the message out that the recall is wrong and very dangerous. Will you listen? Will you use your efforts to stop this travesty of justice and the bastardization of the democratic process? Will you rail against a wrong that may change your life? If I persuade you to do just that, my efforts will not be in vain.

Governor Gray Davis was elected by a majority of the citizens of the state of California. There are three years left in his term. He has done nothing illegal, nothing unconstitutional, and he has been supportive of gay rights, a woman's right to choose, and gun control. He signed AB205 expanding partnership rights to new levels and has appointed GLBT people to positions of authority in his administration. His recall has no basis in fact or law. Why is this recall election really happening?

The truth is obvious. The recall is merely a tool of right wing Republicans who can't win an election fairly.

What are the real facts? Is Davis to blame for the problems in California? Of course not! We know that 46 other states in our

country are running huge deficits. Why is this? We know that the dot-com bubble burst. We know that the California energy crisis was fueled by Enron and other energy companies, many in President Bush's home state of Texas, manipulating the California market to create a fake shortage and huge profits for themselves. We know that these same energy companies were huge financial supporters of the Republican Party. We know that President Bush's tax cuts and poor management of the economy have caused the loss of at least 3 million jobs since he was elected, leaving California's economy in turmoil. With tax revenues slashed, the budget is in the red. People have a right to be angry, but the anger is being misdirected. Do you want to allow a Republican to misdirect your anger against a duly elected Democratic governor and blind you while your rights are stolen? I caution you against such dangerous foolishness.

First, and foremost, be aware that this is the greatest bait and switch trick the Republican Party has ever played. As I predicted from the outset, the Republicans have thrown out a host of candidates who, as with Bill Simon, will gracefully withdraw as Election Day comes nearer to solidify their votes for one candidate. Absent Arnold Schwarzenegger shooting himself in the foot, or some horrible secret coming out, that will be Schwarzenegger. They also are basking in the fact that over 100 other non-candidates will splinter the vote so that a small plurality of the vote might get this movie star elected.

Let's start with Arnold. A Republican candidate, he has surrounded himself with the same staff and advisers of the old vanguard of the Republican Party and others who couldn't win last year's election fairly. Despite his previous promises, he is now accepting millions of dollars in political contributions. As governor, he would make 900

plus political appointments to key executive offices, commissions, boards and, most importantly, the judiciary. As a Republican, and a neophyte politician, he would be relying heavily on those discredited Republican advisers who lost the last election to direct his administration's activities. The recent decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, overturning the horrific *Bowers* case, should give all of us pause before we even consider placing anyone without a track record of proven support close to office, much less in the position of appointment. Celebrity doesn't mean talent, intelligence, or sound judgment. Being a Kennedy by marriage doesn't even get him the support of Senator Ted Kennedy, Congressman Patrick Kennedy, or others, who are strongly against the recall and supporting Governor Davis. Finally, he is a California Republican. What does that mean?

The California Republican Party is on record, in writing, in its party platform with the following tenants: Gay people don't

deserve the same basic rights as other citizens; women should not have a right to choose; environmentalists are "extremists"; and private business interests should be allowed to clean up the environment; major gun control is unconstitutional. With these positions embedded in the Republican platform, even here in California, Arnold is embracing President Bush, who walks to the drum of the national Republican Party, which is even more dogmatic. If elected, President Bush and the Republican Party will manipulate Arnold's celebrity status to revitalize the fading electoral base here in California and re-elect a president who is the greatest threat to equal rights in 20 years. Is this what you really want to happen?

Vote no on the recall and don't vote for me. After voting against the recall, vote for the most qualified Democratic candidate that can really win and protect your rights. Nothing more is necessary, nothing less will do. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Republicans bad, Democrats good

Short-sighted fools who decry "identity politics" or claim that Democrats "have done very little for our special interest group" are either new to California, utterly ignorant, or just plain big fat liars. Don't you remember that our last governor, Republican Pete Wilson, was virulently antigay and immediately vetoed the one and only gay rights bill that made it to his desk? Gray Davis, on the other hand, signed so many pro-gay bills in his first term that he had to tell the Legislature to slow down passing them, fearing he might appear too liberal! How does that translate to "done very little" for us? Democrats in the Clinton/Gore boom era accepted gays and lesbians for the first time ever in our country's history, and it's sickening to see that achievement downplayed by self-hating Log Cabin Republicans who whimper beside the political table for the few scraps the Bush administration might throw down. Nationwide, state legislatures dominated by Republicans routinely vote antigay, anti-black, anti-Latino, anti-Asian legislation and so on, while the Democratic strongholds do the exact opposite.

Republicans bad, Democrats good, get it? Any sins committed by the Democratic electorate are pretty minor compared to the Republicans' enormous list of biggies. Yes, all politicians lie, cheat and steal; it's true, but it's our job to ensure the election of the lesser of two evils. Vote!

Christian Matthews
Pleasant Hill, California

Vote no on recall

We must not sit this election out or throw away our vote on some also-ran. That is just what our political enemies want us to do. We do not need a Republican [Arnold] Schwarzenegger or [Tom] McClellan as governor helping Bush's re-election effort next year. Voting no on the recall and then voting for Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante is the only way to stop that scenario.

Arthur Raoul Arroyo
San Francisco

Poli-tricks

It is only 14 months from now. What is? You ask. Right off the bat, the answer is simple. The future of America. The upcoming presidential election. But it isn't all that simple. In fact, it is much more complex - much more. Take the October 7 recall race. Gray Davis, to be honest with you, in my opinion is no prize as governor of California. I have voted for him in the past and will vote no on the recall as well. I will also vote yes on [Lieutenant Governor Cruz] Bustamante.

Let me explain some of the reasons why.

I think Davis hit a very important note in a speech a few weeks ago regarding the whole process we call in the 21st century "circus arena" American politics.

The Republicans are trying to steal elections they can't win on their own.

The right wing of America is very dangerous to all Americans, but especially to the GLBT community as we all know, and I think in general we have made great strides in subduing a lot of their agenda - until recently.

Under the Clinton administration the GLBT community had become very complacent. And with some good reason, we have made many strides since the days of Reagan/Bush.

But, after living in the Castro for 17 years I have to ask, what has happened to the GLBT community?

Remember the days when we used to gather in the streets and voice our strong opinions? Remember lying down on the streets and chalking our body outlines, demanding action on AIDS?

I'm not saying we need to go back to those extremes, but isn't it about time we stood together and voiced our opinions about the atrocities that the Bush administration has been pulling on the American public? Remember, us queers have a big voice, that's why the right wing doesn't like us.

The Patriot Act is a prime example of how the rights of Americans and the Constitution have been trampled on by John Ashcroft. I mean, do you really want the feds looking through the drawers of your desk or in your home without you even knowing they did it, and without a warrant? All because it could prevent terrorism?

That is a lame excuse for the government to take away our privacy rights.

What about the anti-cannabis crusade that John Ashcroft has waged? Remember we voted to have medical marijuana in California, but the Bush administration doesn't care about how people vote. That's just my point.

In the upcoming days, weeks, and months we have a responsibility as a GLBT community, and as

Americans to act up to preserve what gains we have made and paid for in the lives of so many of our friends through AIDS, gay bashing, and discrimination. We owe them that much, folks.

I mean let's face it. If you think the sheep in wolves clothing called Arnold isn't a puppet for the upcoming presidential election, than the wool is being pulled over your eyes, just like the right wing wants it to be. Don't forget how tricky they can be. After all, isn't Arnold a compassionate conservative?

Remember that term used by another political figure who stole an election in 2000?

In closing for today, all I ask is for you all to do one thing. Vote. Vote for anyone you want to - it doesn't matter who.

Because as an American, your opinion is what counts, not a community's agenda.

But, remember one thing.

Are you really better off than you were before we stopped voicing our opinions so loudly?

Queer Eye for the Straight Guy and *Will & Grace* are wonderful. But, shouldn't we be asking for more than that of our elected officials?

Until next time, enjoy the beautiful city we live in, and help it to be a better place in the future. Volunteer on the campaign of your choice if you like politics. But, even if you don't, remember to vote.

You'll feel better afterwards, and that way you will be allowed to bitch in the bar with a validated voice.

Russell DuHaime
San Francisco

Don't blur the words, meanings

I don't support Gwendolyn Ann Smith's proposed blurring of the words and definitions of sexual types with the idea they can be replaced with the word "transgender" [*Trans-versatility*, *Transmissions*, September 4]. Transsexuals and transgenders will like the umbrella term because blurring demography may increase political clout. For the rest of us, it would only mark the further debasement of the English language. One doesn't have to look far to see this breakdown. Even Mr. Bush can't speak in coherent, complete sentences unless someone writes them down for him. Where technology and medicine goes, language goes. In our sex-obsessed culture, our fascination with varieties of sexual identities is not diminishing. Why wouldn't we want words upon which we can agree that describe precisely different types of people? The vocabulary and subdivisions are useful. Without them, we would be less able to express ideas.

By using "transgender" all the time we would have more confusion about our history and who we are today. I know many gay men who enjoy doing drag occasionally and casually, and I wouldn't presume to call them transgender. They have no questions about their gender.

Regarding history, over the last several years there have been proclamations made that transsexuals led the Stonewall riots and so should lead our parade. But there is no documentation suggesting that transsexuals or transgenders played an important role in Stonewall or that they were present in significant numbers. There were gay men, some of whom were drag queens, hippies, and street people. "Transgender" is misleading to describe drag queens because it describes attributes which aren't there, implying something more extreme, serious, and full-time.

If Ms. Smith is looking for a term that has "remarkable versatility" and is, as she says, "easier than trying to define myself than trying to break down my identity into a confusing muddle that can be more specific," I wonder how she would like it if the phrase "drag folk" caught on as the new umbrella term.

Thanks, but I'll stick to the original words and their authentic meanings.

Larry Schmidt
Oakland, California

Matt Gonzalez's record

There's a drone of negative campaigning emanating from Tom Ammiano's supporters. The latest voice is that of Ken Rackow [*Mailstrom*, September 25]. Rackow incorrectly accuses Matt Gonzalez of changing his party affiliation after his election and accuses Matt's supporters (again) of heterosexism. He also suggests there was something wrong with the way Matt won the presidency of the Board of Supervisors.

As a proud gay supporter of Matt Gonzalez, let me set the record straight. Matt announced his switch to the Green Party in the middle of a hotly contested runoff against a Democratic machine candidate. He did this by way of a cover article in the *Bay Guardian*; it was hardly a secret. Many Democrats, including Tom Ammiano, urged him not to change parties or to delay his announcement, but Matt wanted the voters to know exactly where he stood. The voters of District 5 overwhelmingly voted him into office as a Green.

Sophie Maxwell entered the contest for president
next page ►

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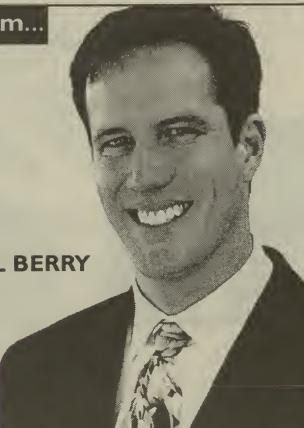
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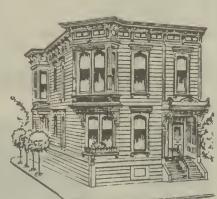
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of the board with the support of Mayor Brown, after previously stating that she would not. Tom Ammann joined Gavin Newsom in supporting Maxwell after Aaron Peskin dropped out to break the resulting deadlock. It was a tough and narrow margin of victory, but under Matt's leadership, the board has been functioning well, and passed a balanced budget on time in the face of the biggest revenue shortfall in history.

There are substantive differences between Tom and Matt. For example, the budget shortfall existed partly because of the business tax rollback that Tom supported and Matt opposed. Matt's position is that rolling back the gross receipts tax and leaving only a payroll tax on businesses discourages job creation. It also deprives the city of revenue we need to preserve services like treatment-on-demand for speed users, a huge issue for our community. And it was Matt, not Tom, who had the courage to debate with Gavin Newsom on homelessness in 2002. One reason I could not support Tom this year was that after placing Proposition O on the ballot, he was essentially AWOL on homelessness in 2002. This year, in the face of a critical shortage of psychiatrists in the public mental health system, Tom sponsored a resolution that would have, among other things, rolled back psychiatrists' compensation by 35 percent.

As for back as December 2002, many in our community, including Robert Haaland and Wayne Friday, publicly doubted Tom's ability to win. Oddly, some of those are the same voices alleging "heterosexism" now. I support Matt because I think he is the best candidate for our communities, both as LGB-TIQ people and as San Franciscans. That said, if Tom makes it to the runoff against Newsom, I have already vowed to work tirelessly for Tom. Meanwhile, a healthy debate about the issues – and not a din of divisive unfounded allegations of heterosexism – will increase progressive turnout and stop Newsom from a November coronation.

Paul Quick, M.D.
San Francisco**Harris's experience**

I applaud you for your early endorsement of Kamala Harris in the November election for district attorney. As a 20-year veteran of the Hall of Justice, I have been able to witness the abilities and practices of the three candidates running for this office. As a court reporter I worked with Ms. Harris in a three-week, serious felony case where she was pitted against famed defense attorney J. Tony Serra where she more than held her own and ultimately obtained a conviction. In this case she displayed great legal skill, compassion, and reasonableness. She won the respect of the entire court as well as her opponent. This is the complete opposite from the trial I reported with Mr. Hallinan.

My experiences with Kamala have inspired me for the first time in my adult life to actively get involved in a political campaign. As a Hall of Justice employee I look forward to her using her management abilities to restore professionalism and pride to an office in disarray. As a gay man I look forward to her implementing progressive programs as well as supporting medical marijuana. As a citizen I look forward to her enforcement of both serious crimes and quality of life issues along with greater police accountability. This would be a welcome change from Terence Hallinan's publicity-seeking antics and lack of follow through.

Again, I thank you for realizing the seriousness of this race, which has been all but overlooked by the mainstream press in favor of the recall and the mayor's race.

Anthony Vaughn
San Francisco**New Leaf staffers respond**

We, the staff at New Leaf, are writing a letter to more fully explain to the community our position on the current union negotiations, which was described by the B.A.R. article on the subject ("New Leaf staff picket over contract dispute," September 25). The staff at New Leaf is a group of extremely dedicated professionals who are choosing to work in community mental health for the betterment of our community. We do so with far less than competitive wages for our profession and in crowded conditions, yet we consistently provide the highest quality service to our clients.

Certainly, we are aware of the economic pressures placed on the agency by the recession. There is no one more aware of this than the workers at this agency who are facing very difficult times ourselves. We work at a salary level whose full-time equivalent falls into the category of "low income" on the Mayor's Office of Community Development form "G" which we fill out with clients during an intake. Our salaries are currently between 7 and 12 percent

lower than median salaries on the California Non-Profit Wage Salary Survey. We absolutely understand the difficulty of finding money in any budget at this time because we have all, by necessity, become very good at knowing relative costs and necessary trade-offs in our own financial situations. We know from experience that when funds are limited it is the higher priorities that get funded. Given what management is proposing, we feel that management does not place a very high priority on staff's concerns.

Management's offer of a 3 percent raise essentially matches the inflation rate which is about 2.6 percent and so is not a raise in real terms. The 3 percent offer is also more than offset by a huge reduction in benefits. One of the reasons staff has been able to stay at New Leaf is because of the current health benefit package. In their current proposal, management wants to eliminate vision and dental coverage, long term disability, and life insurance. They also want to change over to a single health care plan which would end many staff members' long-standing relationships with their current health care providers. Quality health care is essential for our community, especially for staff members who are HIV-positive, have disabilities, and are transgender.

In addition to cutting health care, New Leaf does not provide domestic partner benefits, which have become standard in other similar nonprofits. New Leaf, as a leading LGBTQ mental health agency in the Bay Area, has a responsibility to affirm LGBTQ relationships, yet management is unwilling to provide for even half of DP benefits. This is a battle that is being fought across the nation, and it is hard to believe that New Leaf is on the wrong side.

We continue to be proud of New Leaf's role within the LGBTQ community and feel privileged and committed to providing services to the most vulnerable and underserved LGBTQ clients. However, when the people who work here are not valued and appreciated we are unable to retain excellent clinicians and administrative staff. The resulting turnover ultimately affects the quality of service we can provide to our clients.

We are writing this letter to ask for the support of our community in urging New Leaf's management to reconsider its current proposal. We look forward to continuing negotiations with New Leaf's management team and hope to come to a speedy agreement which addresses the needs of the agency, the staff, and the clients we serve.

Micheleanne Baker, Ph. D.
Brad Harms, MS, MFT
Nick Parsons, MFT
New Leaf Union Staff, Local 790 SEIU

Dean and fellow Dems

Recently, presidential candidate Howard Dean suggested that we take an "even-handed" approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, stating that only when both sides respect us will we be able to help them achieve the peace. Unfortunately, this was too much for the pro-Sharon Zionists, who immediately lambasted Dean for wanting to withdraw support from Israel, which is a different matter entirely.

The reason this topic is of interest to us here in San Francisco is that included in the pro-Sharon Zionists group appears to be both of our House representatives, Nancy Pelosi and Tom Lantos. Previously, I thought that only Republicans were in the habit of twisting words in order to slander others, but recently Pelosi and Lantos circulated a letter to Dean signed by 32 others (including Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank and East Bay Democrat Ellen Tauscher), taking Dean to task for something he neither said nor implied. I am appalled that this group of Democrats, who could only be doing this in order to promote candidates whom they support, could be so short-sighted. By choosing this course of action, they very well could be providing made-up propaganda for the Republican Party should Dean actually win the nomination. And as we all know, the GOP is good enough at making up its own stuff, so we hardly need to throw any gas on that fire.

Seventy-five percent of Americans in a June Gallup poll said that the U.S. should not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Lantos and Pelosi need to apologize to Dean for this ridiculous piece of trash they've signed. And for those who aren't on the Sharon-Netanyahu-Lieberman bandwagon, I urge you to let Pelosi and Lantos know how you feel.

Douglas Slaton
San Francisco

Send letters to the Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Letters must be signed, and include an address and daytime phone number for verification purposes only. Unsigned letters will not be printed. E-mail letters are accepted at BARpaper@aol.com. Please put "letter to the editor" in the subject line, and also include an address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space.

POLITICS

Oct. 7: Vote no on recall

by Wayne Friday

Tuesday's recall election shouldn't even be happening. This Republican bought-and-paid-for election is little more than a sop to the whims of dissatisfied GOP politicians, bankrolled by one of their own, Representative **Darrell Issa** (R-Vista), a pro-life, antigay right-winger whose paid signature gatherers put this ill-conceived election before us.

Now, however, even Issa appears to be having second thoughts about the recall election as he last week grudgingly endorsed **Arnold Schwarzenegger** after publicly urging a no vote just days earlier.

Governor **Gray Davis** has never been one of my favorite politicos but the guy is taking the heat for problems that aren't now and never were under his control, and frankly, any of those running to succeed him will surely find themselves in the same fix should the recall effort be successful. I am not endorsing or defending Davis's job performance (though, in reality, he hasn't been a bad governor) but the man was honestly and democratically re-elected only last November and elections are supposed to represent the will of the people, not the whim of the electorate.

Indeed, if this recall of Davis succeeds it could very well usher in the kind of entrenched partisanship that now afflicts the national government in Washington. A Republican, like Schwarzenegger, could win this election, build up his party's support for **George W. Bush** in next year's presidential election, only to run afoul of the very same budget problems that have dogged Davis. Worse, however, would be that he (Schwarzenegger) would be saddled with a Democratic Legislature and even some Republicans are now privately saying that it would be safer for California to forget this recall and stay with Davis, a seasoned public figure who knows state government well.

As for the highly political energy crisis that Republicans still blame Davis for, it was his predecessor, Republican **Pete Wilson's** doing – all of it – starting with the deregulation law Wilson signed back in 1996. That law did nothing but hurt Californians while making the Republican oil executives who run companies like Enron even wealthier and greedier. Davis had nothing whatsoever to do with that.

So, with nearly every other state facing a California-like budget crisis why has ours become such a profound political crisis? The true answer can be found, in part, with those in the Bush White House like political operative **Karl Rove**, who want a Republican in the California governor's office when Bush (who lost this state by 1.6 million votes in 2000) makes his grab for the state's 54 electoral votes next year. Bush, once thought to be politically safe for re-election in 2004, now faces a tougher fight to keep his job and this state's 54 electoral votes play big in his plans. It's all a Republican-planned scheme orchestrated from the Republican National Committee and the White House.

While Tuesday's recall election



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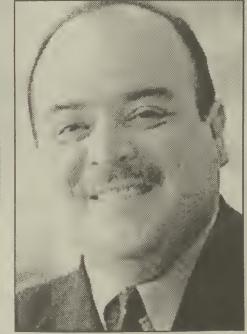
Our Man Friday

is little more than political fraud brought upon us by paid signatures of less than one-tenth of the state's registered voters, it is more likely to engender ongoing political instability than to install an era of balanced budgets and stable government. This naked power-grab recall election has allowed vigilante behavior – nourished by ego, greed, and power – to lure the California public into a situation that will inevitably lead to unending political chaos in the state. If the political right succeeds in ousting Davis we can most surely look forward to regular recall elections, furthering the chaotic election process.

Don't like a bill the governor signed? Launch a recall. Annoyed at some bill the governor vetoed? Time for another recall. Any millionaire zealot like Issa (and there are plenty of them in this state) can easily afford another \$1 or \$2 million to buy the necessary signatures. The process will create a protracted circus that will surpass even the political fiasco of Florida in 2000 in which Republican tactics managed to steal the U.S. presidency.

We must not let them do the same to us. Certainly, California must not let the woman-taunting Schwarzenegger win the governor's office. As much as I abhor their right wing politics, at least two other Republican actors-turned-politicians, **Ronald Reagan** and George Murphy, could at least act, sing, and dance. Schwarzenegger, a grade B actor at best, is doing all he can and spending millions trying to sell California a song and dance in next week's election.

I can understand the desire of California's right wing Republicans to take back the governor's office, but they had their chance only 11 months ago and couldn't



Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante

do it. They aren't entitled to another bite at that apple. Davis has been as an effective a governor as anyone could have been under this era of Bush recession and failed economics; Davis won reelection last year in an honest and fair election and should be allowed to serve out his term.

Vote no on the recall on Tuesday, October 7. Then, as a safeguard, to be sure that the Bush-Rove-Schwarzenegger crowd doesn't get control of California, vote for **Cruz Bustamante** on the second part of the ballot.

Tuesday: Vote no on the recall; yes on Bustamante.

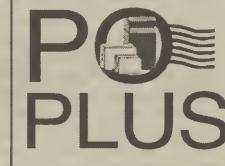
Politics & people

Critiquing the "Great Debate": If Arnold Schwarzenegger thinks this indeed was the Super Bowl of debates, I would have to point out that he barely scored a field goal, much less a touchdown in his only appearance with fellow replacement candidates. One exchange in the verbal slap-face fight really stood out: Did Schwarzenegger really want to stuff **Arianna Huffington's** head down a toilet? Schwarzenegger's quip that he "had a part for Arianna in his next *Terminator* movie" drew criticism from some women's groups as just more evidence that the man cares little about women. It is not a new charge against the muscle-man actor, who has in the past made disparaging remarks when it comes to females.

Karen Pomer, a member of Code Pink, a women's group that has criticized Schwarzenegger over his alleged treatment of women, thought his remark to Huffington during the debate was obviously a reference to a scene in *Terminator 3* when the actor's character stuffs a female robot's head into a toilet. After the debate, having apparently realized how his comment came off, Schwarzenegger tried to downplay the exchange and explain the comment, saying Huffington shouldn't have taken the remark as an insult, but rather as a compliment. Duh.

Throughout the entire debate Schwarzenegger acted like a blunderbuss and even looked like an overgrown bully, repeatedly interrupting Huffington in a collision of booming and shrill European accents that became increasingly hard on the ears. Huffington: "Let me finish. Let me finish. Let me finish. You know, this is really impolite and we know this is how you treat women, but not right now." Schwarzenegger managed to smile, but his cheeks flushed and he looked like he'd just been slapped. Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, advanced his interests by taking the low-key approach. Bus-

page 13 ►



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Ten years, five years, one year

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

In the next few weeks, you will likely be hearing a lot about Matthew Shepard. It is, after all, the five-year anniversary of the brutal beating of Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming. A beating that took his life on October 12, 1998.

Shepard's death is not the only such anniversary on the calendar this year – three cases of importance within the transgender community reach milestone years in 2003.

In was nearly a decade ago, December 31, 1993, when Brandon Teena, a young female-to-male, was murdered in Falls City, Nebraska. Brandon had been living as a man in the area for some time before being outed by local police. When he was revealed to have been born with female genitalia, John Lotter and Marvin Nissen raped Brandon. A week later they took Brandon's life, after he had reported the rape to the local police. This case was the basis of the film *Boys Don't Cry*.

Six weeks after Matthew Shepard died in a Fort Collins, Colorado Hospital – and more than 1,500 miles away – a 33-year-old African American transgender woman, Rita Hester, was brutally stabbed 20 times in her Boston, Massachusetts apartment. It is likely that you never heard of Rita, as her murder did not gain the headlines that Matthew's or even

Brandon's did. Also unlike the above cases, her murderer or murderers have never been caught, and her case sits unsolved – and largely unworked.

And just one year ago, on the night of October 3, 17-year-old Gwen Araujo went to a house party in Newark, California. Her alleged killers, according to preliminary trial testimony, brutally tortured her over several hours before she died, then they buried her body 150 miles away, in a shallow grave. She was later found after the story of her murder made it, like a macabre game of "telephone," to the ears of a family member.

Ten years, five years, one year. Each a major anniversary, a milestone that one cannot help but reflect on.

One thing that binds these cases together in our memories, and draws attention to their anniversaries is this: each of these have called us to action.

Brandon's death was one of the major calls to arms that led to activism in the transgender community in the first part of the 1990s. Without Brandon's passing, there may have never been the fight for transgender rights that has been seen in the last decade, or it may have been a smaller movement.

Both Matthew Shepard's and Rita Hester's deaths led to continued action on the part of GLBT activists. Matthew Shepard's passing increasing the visibility of vio-

lence against gays and lesbians, particularly against our youth, while Rita Hester's death directly led to the formation of the Remembering Our Dead project and the Transgender Day of Remembrance, both of which have served to focus transgender rights battles on the most important one: the right to exist. Gwen Araujo's passing may be the most important of these, being both the recipient of the momentum born out of anger over these other murders, and the focus point of activism over the last year. Her name has been mentioned in nearly every venue since her murder, as the example of why we need expanded coverage for transgender individuals in both antidiscrimination and hate crimes coverage across the land.

Ten years, five years, one year.

I think it must be a human desire to pay attention to anniversaries, probably starting from around our first birthday. We go through life with this in mind, going through high school reunions and – perhaps for some of us – wedding anniversaries.

These four cases are bittersweet anniversaries, times when we recall lives cut short, and take a moment to think of the elements surrounding their passing. Each of these anniversaries are times to look at these lost lives, and cry out, "No more!"

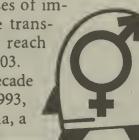


nearly 30 people have lost their lives for the same basic reason that Brandon, Rita, and Gwen did – and possibly, too, for reasons similar to those that caused Matthew's killers to leave him to die on a fence in Wyoming.

These are not comfortable statistics, but they are the reality of these anniversaries: there is so much more to do when we look back at the decade since Brandon, or the five years since Shepard or Hester. As much as we want to think, too, that things have improved in the last year since Gwen Araujo's death, the numbers do not lie: other young transgender people are still being killed, just like she did.

So 10 years, five years, and one year gone, it becomes necessary that each of us continue to work, not only to honor our dead but, as Mother Jones said, to fight like hell for the living. Let us not only reach a time when these anniversaries are times to reflect on a barbaric event, but on how things have improved since then. More than this, let us reach a time when there will no longer be any new anniversaries. ▼

Gwen Smith, by means of full disclosure, is the founder of the Remembering Our Dead project. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com.



Transmissions

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Supervisors hold Prop. S hearing

by Liz Highleyman

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors' City Services Committee held a public hearing September 25 to discuss the implementation of Proposition S, the initiative passed last November directing city officials to study how to provide medical cannabis.

Before the public testimony, the three committee members – Supervisors Bevan Duffy, Fiona Ma, and Gavin Newsom – met privately with city attorneys to discuss the legal ramifications of carrying out the proposition's mandate. The supervisors declined to reveal what was said during the closed session, but stated that no decisions had been made.

Despite overwhelming local support for Proposition S and the 1996 state Compassionate Use Act (Proposition 215), use of marijuana for any purpose remains illegal under federal law. Any move by the city to grow or distribute medical cannabis could set the stage for a showdown with the federal government.

Medical marijuana advocates at the hearing suggested various ideas for implementing Proposition S, most of which fell into three broad categories: city licensing of medical cannabis dispensaries as they currently exist; city licensing of either cooperative patient growing operations or

"cannabis therapy centers" that provide a range of health and social services; and city growing cannabis, with security provided by the police.

"We should do this openly, publicly, and with great pride," stated Michael Aldrich, former director of Cannabis Helping Alleviate Medical Problems.

District Attorney Terence Hallinan begged to differ. "I've always felt the key was to keep our heads down and avoid directly challenging the federal government," he said. Hallinan recommended that the city should not directly grow cannabis itself, on city property or with city resources.

San Francisco Police Department narcotics chief Captain Tim Hetrick said the city's understandings with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI, and the Customs department could be jeopardized by Proposition S, and that any plan that has the police guarding pot would incur "a tremendous cost to the city."

According to Dr. Josh Bergeron of the Department of Public Health, the extent of the city's current involvement is administering a medical cannabis patient identification card system; some 7,000 patients have registered since July 2000. SB420, which would institute a statewide medical cannabis ID card system, is currently awaiting Governor Gray Davis's signature. Some believe

the new state law would strengthen the city's position, but others oppose the bill's limitations on the amount of cannabis a medical user may legally possess.

Several speakers lauded the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana in Santa Cruz as a model of collective cannabis growing. WAMM, which was raided by federal agents in September 2002, maintains a cooperative garden where patients or their caregivers grow cannabis for their own use, as well as provide security. All marijuana is provided on a donation basis or free.

Different segments of the medical cannabis community highlighted the benefits and drawbacks of the various plans.

"City regulation [of dispensaries] is the way to go," said Dale Gieringer of the California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, noting that there should be a way to grow cannabis in rural areas, where land is cheap and growing conditions are good, to provide for patients in the city.

Others wondered how the WAMM model would operate serving more than 7,000 patients, and how a program designed to serve the terminally ill would work for patients with chronic pain, which is more common among the population served by the city's existing medical cannabis dispensaries.

In an indication of what appears to be a growing rift between medical cannabis patients and providers, several patient advo-

cates complained that the current crop of clubs sell marijuana at unaffordable prices, lack additional health and social services, and fail to treat their clients with respect.

"The clubs now show no compassion," said patient Renee Kidera. "The price is unreachable for almost everyone."

"Most clubs today are strictly endeavors for profit," stated Harvey Feldman, co-founder of Patients' Health Defense, a recently formed union of medical cannabis users. "We do not support a plan that would allow abusive clubs to become the future centerpiece in implementing Proposition S."

"Many dispensaries are in neighborhoods where I'm concerned for my safety," said Brian Basinger, a member of the com-



Patient advocate Harvey Feldman

munity advisory board for a medical cannabis study at the University of California at San Francisco. He suggested utilizing the city's infrastructure of existing community centers, including the LGBT center. "I'd like to see my money supporting community organizations, instead of going into a few pockets."

Throughout the hearing, there was an evident sense of frustration that the implementation of Proposition S had not proceeded further as the one-year anniversary of its passage approaches.

"We are committing civil disobedience every day," said Robyn Few, a former co-owner of Cannabis Healing Californians who faced federal sentencing this week. "We don't need another year of the feds arresting club owners. You've taken an oath to uphold the law. Do it now before any more people go to prison."

Added patient Eric Levy, "Sick people can't wait for the federal government to recognize politically difficult truths. Their disease won't wait, their pain won't wait."

"I don't think I've ever been to a hearing more overwhelmingly compelling," Duffy stated at the close of testimony. "I wish this hearing could be watched by every member of Congress."

Ma proposed that the board designate the legislative analyst to study the WAMM model and appoint a committee to look at potential policies and regulations. Duffy introduced the proposal at the Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday, September 30. ▶

Our Man Friday

◀ page 11

tamante came across as relaxed, avuncular, and ready for the final days of a short, grueling campaign. State Senator Tom McClintock (R-Thousand Oaks) also came across to most as being ready for prime time. Although McClintock carefully observed Reagan's 11th Commandment ("Never criticize a fellow Republican") he was most specific on the budget and emphatic in his long-held opposition to any new taxes. McClintock erred, however, when he claimed that the state, under Davis, was now spending more of people's earnings than at any other time in history – the state now collects about \$7 for every \$100 in income, less than in 1988-89, under a Republican governor.

Green Party candidate Peter Camejo appeared calm, well-prepared, and impressive; his comments about reforming the tax system were particularly good.

Overall, in my opinion that is, McClintock and Bustamante were most impressive in that they remained calm and direct in presenting their starkly opposing views in the middle of an event that moderator Stan Statham said wasn't Comedy Central, but a real case might have been made for calling it a milder episode of *Jerry Springer*.

Governor Davis, making a direct pitch for women voters, appeared at a West Hollywood rally featuring an all-female cast of supporters (including, I'm informed, some GOP women) last Friday night headlined by former Texas Governor Ann Richards, which was interrupted by a phone call from New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, whose comments were piped into a PA system to the overflow crowd. Clinton placed much of the blame for California's economic problems directly on the Bush admin-

istration and spoke particularly glowingly of Davis and his record on women's issues.

Congresswoman Martina? Tennis superstar Martina Navratilova, 46, says she plans to get into public service after she hangs up the tennis rackets in 2005. Navratilova said last week at the Sparkassen Cup tournament in Germany that she plans to play through the end of next season then she wants to get involved with politics, perhaps running for office. "If Schwarzenegger can run for governor in California, then who knows? I have the muscles," said Navratilova, a Czech-born U.S. citizen who now lives in Colorado. Navratilova: "I will definitely be involved, especially the way things are going right now. The conservative party (in the U.S.) is now too strong."

S.F. City Hall insiders warn that those Green Party members who seem hell-bent on getting rid of school Superintendent Arlene Ackerman aren't doing themselves or the Green Party any favors politically (and no, I don't believe Board of Supes Prez Matt Gonzalez, himself a Greenie, has a hand in any of this).

GOP insiders tell us that the Republican threats getting channeled to Tom McClintock (to get him to pull out of the gubernatorial race before Tuesday) include one that proposes he will face a Republican primary challenge for his state Senate seat next year if he doesn't accede to Schwarzenegger's wishes.

Finally, my "Quote of the Week" comes from the editorial page of the *Los Angeles Times* of last Thursday commenting on last Wednesday's gubernatorial debate that included all major candidates, with the exception of Governor Davis. The Times: "Nothing happened Wednesday night to give Californians reason to replace Davis. A 'No' vote on this recall looks better every second."

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Crash course

by Jane Warner

Castro and Market, September 24, 5:18 p.m.: Two people were injured during a vehicle accident that occurred on the afternoon of September 24 after the driver of a black Volkswagen Jetta attempted to make an illegal left hand turn northbound onto Castro from Market Street. As the Jetta turned, it was struck by a van traveling westbound on Market Street. The force of the collision pushed the Jetta up onto the sidewalk fronting the Arco gas station, and the airbags of both of the vehicles inflated upon impact. The driver of the Jetta was taken to the hospital via ambulance having suffered a slight concussion and contusions to his left arm. The driver of the second vehicle, a blue Sienna van, was treated for soreness to her chest caused by the vehicle's air bag.

Mixed drinks

Dolores Park, September 13, 9:38 p.m.: Two men inside the park began to argue about whose turn it was to get coffee. The argument continued for several minutes, until a man sitting behind

them told the pair to shut up. The coffee disagreement soon ended, as the men turned their attention to the stranger and cautioned him to mind his own business. Ignoring their advice, the stranger, who was drinking from a pint of vodka, continued to interrupt. Enraged, one of the men pushed the intruder to the ground and jumped on top of him. He then struck the man in the face three times with a blade from a multi-tool knife. Several onlookers called police to report the stabbing and officers quickly arrived to find the 32-year-old victim bleeding from the face.

"That's him!" the victim told officers, pointing to the suspect. "He told me we don't need no fucking wet-back Mexicans around here, and then he struck me."

The suspect denied the allegation, explaining, "He was drunk and just pissed me off."

Officers arrested the 30-year-old assailant, who was taken to Mission Station and booked for

aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. The victim, who received three puncture wounds to his face, refused medical treatment and was released at the scene.

Long distance

400 block of Douglass, September 12, 4:35 p.m.: A man who lives on Douglass Street walked into Mission Station and reported that he had been "ripped off" over the Internet. The victim told the station officer he had met a man online who sold cell phones for a living. Interested, the man ordered several cell phones from his new cyber acquaintance, and then transferred over \$1,000 from his checking account into the seller's account. When he didn't hear from his new buddy after a few days, the victim became suspicious and tried to contact him.

The suspect never returned his calls. The man told officers he had little information about the alleged thief other than his name was Kevin and he lives in Lawrenceville, Georgia. ▶

**DA candidates address building owners group**

by Cynthia Laird

The three candidates for district attorney took part in a candidates forum before the San Francisco Building Owners and Managers Association last week, where the issue of quality of life crimes prevailed.

Challenger Bill Fazio, who has twice before run against incumbent District Attorney Terence Hallinan, accused the D.A. of "doing nothing about quality of life crimes." Fazio also said that Hallinan opposes Proposition M on the November ballot, which is Supervisor Gavin Newsom's aggressive panhandling measure.

Kamala Harris, Hallinan's other challenger, pledged to implement a tracking system for the homeless and to work better with police. Repeat quality of life offenders, she said, will be prosecuted after three or more citations, provided there is evidence. Harris said she also supports Proposition M.



D.A. candidates Terence Hallinan, Kamala Harris, and Bill Fazio.

Hallinan acknowledged to the audience at the September 25 luncheon that he opposes Proposition M, and defended the conviction rates of his office, which critics have charged are among the worst in the state.

"I don't think Proposition M is good legislation," Hallinan said. "We already have aggressive panhandling and ATM laws on the books."

Those laws prohibit aggressive panhandling and specifically, panhandling near ATM machines. Newsom's measure would replace existing laws with a new law banning aggressive solicitation in public places, any solicitation within 20 feet of a check-cashing business or an ATM machine, any solicitation of persons in vehicles on a street or highway on-ramp or

page 27 ▶

Castro St. Fair

◀ page 1

Merman Experience; the famed and beloved Donna Sachet; and the drag comedy music review of Acid Housewife.

Other stages include the Latin stage, located on 18th and Collingwood streets; the Electronica stage, located behind Walgreens; the Sundance Country Western Dance stage, located behind the Castro Theatre; and new for this year, Sugar Valley, a collection of emerging artists who will showcase their talents on 18th between Hartford and Noe streets.

Booths include over 250 arts, crafts, and merchandise vendors; representatives from local charita-

ble and political groups; and ethnic food stands.

Thirty different community nonprofits will benefit from the neighborhood run and produced fair, which asks that participants donate \$3 at the gate, which entitles them to \$1 off beer and water all day.

Area businesses are also encouraged to stay open for the fair, said Gaynes, "and it's usually a boom day for them."

Fairgoers are asked to arrive on foot, Muni, or by bicycle; a secure and guarded bicycle parking area is located near the main stage.

This year's Castro Street Fair, for residents, regulars, and visitors alike, promises to offer something for everyone, and the planned Sylvester tribute, said Gaynes, "is so sweet, that those who remem-

ber Sylvester will weep."

Thirty fairs after Milk first conceived of the idea, Gaynes said he believes that the late supervisor would be particularly proud to see it now.

"Harvey is still a guiding force behind the Castro Street Fair," said Gaynes, who added that many fair board members worked with Milk on the first few fairs. "I'm hoping that when he looks down he will be pleased by what we continue to do in his memory." ▶

For more information, visit www.castrostreetfair.org

An informative summary of Sylvester's life is available at www.soulmusic.com/EYS-Sylvester.htm.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay porn company at center of Internet privacy debate

by Zak Szymanski

In an ironic political twist, an antigay Republican senator appears to be fighting for children to have easier access to gay porn, while a San Francisco gay porn company says it is doing its best to stop him.

The story begins, according to representatives at Titan Media, an adult entertainment company with headquarters in San Francisco's Mission District, with broadband communications companies such as SBC and Verizon, who make billions of dollars as Internet service providers. Individuals and companies use these services to run their Web sites. Many of these Web sites have peer-to-peer (P2P) software features, whereby Web site visitors can "share" downloaded files with each other.

This is the same technology that has record company executives up in arms over Web sites like the defunct Napster, whose users were trading music without paying for it, allegedly costing the industry and artists millions of dollars in sales.

This is the same technology that, without running age verifications, allows users to trade and access illegally downloaded pornography. Titan should know: its own research has turned up thousands of its titles on P2P software programs like Kazaa.

Titan's interest in this issue is two-fold: for one, mass file swapping of its movies means the company is losing money by not selling what it normally would for its in-demand titles; Titan's sales have dropped 30 percent since April, when P2P software "exploded," said Titan Media President Bruce Lahey.

And secondly, said Lahey, Titan works hard to ensure that its titles do not end up in the hands of minors, with an age verification system that weeds out about 50 percent of its traffic and 20 percent of its potential customers. But this work becomes all for naught once the movies are publicly traded without such regulation.

"What violators are doing," said Lahey, "is enabling adult material to be distributed without adult protections."

To crack down on those who illegally trade its material, Titan has been following the guidelines passed by Congress known as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The 1998 DMCA allows companies like Titan to issue subpoenas to Internet service providers demanding the name, address, and telephone numbers of ISP customers who are suspected of illegally downloading copyrighted material.

When a movie of Titan's is traded, an ISP number is revealed, to which Titan sends a cease and desist order, which ISPs are expected to forward to its offending customers.

The options for Titan violators include amnesty, by which they can pay a flat fee of \$75 and avoid future prosecution, or payment for each title downloaded or traded.

Thus far these measures have produced impressive results; in



Titan Media President Bruce Lahey, left, and Vice President Keith Ruoff

the last two weeks, said Titan Vice President Keith Ruoff, about 200 people have opted to pay a flat fee in exchange for wiping their slates clean.

The problem is, said Titan executives, not every ISP forwards the orders to its users. And some users refuse to heed the warnings, and continue to engage in illegal file swapping. That's when Titan has the right to issue subpoenas to ISP companies, asking that the identities of the violators be revealed so that legal action can be pursued.

Spinning the Web

Enter U.S. Senator Sam Brownback (R-Kansas), also known as one of the main proponents of the constitutional ban on gay marriage.

SBC and Verizon, according to public interest Web sites like www.opensecrets.org, are among Brownback's top financial contributors.

These companies have taken firms like Titan to task for aggressively pursuing the identities of copyright infringers. In some recent unsuccessful lawsuits, these companies have also tried to have the subpoena rules of the DMCA overturned.

When ISPs continued to lose in other courts, said Lahey, SBC pursued the San Francisco court system, hoping to have better luck. In order to file in San Francisco, SBC needed a company within the city that is actively involved in DMCA proceedings. So SBC named Titan Media in its local lawsuit.

Should the court rulings continue to favor the current DMCA guidelines, Brownback has introduced legislation of his own to overturn the subpoena process outlined by the DMCA.

Under the DMCA, such subpoenas are not subject to a review by a judge. Brownback's legislation — and the ISP lawsuits — seek to change that process so that companies intending to subpoena alleged offenders would have to file lawsuits.

"As it stands any company can go into court, claim that its copyrights have been infringed, and get a clerk to sign a subpoena so that it can obtain confidential and private information about people who are using the Internet," SBC spokesman Selim Bingol told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "The subpoena is issued without any judicial oversight. What is to stop an Internet stalker from doing the same

thing — to just as easily go to a courtroom, claim copyright infringement, get a subpoena, and find out where somebody lives?"

Lahey and others in support of the DMCA, however, said that such considerations were taken into account when the DMCA was originally drafted, negotiations in which ISPs had a voice. And Lahey finds it outrageous, he said, that companies like SBC are claiming privacy protections "when what they really mean, is that they're protecting their bandwidth."

Furthermore, said Lahey and Ruoff, being forced to file a lawsuit instead of a subpoena would actually expose offenders, making their names and addresses public record once they were found and identified.

But at Brownback's Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee hearing on September 16, SBC singled out Titan as a reason for DMCA reform, citing the fact that Titan issued a subpoena in July demanding that SBC reveal 59 of its subscribers.

That's when Brownback took advantage of popular rhetoric, said Titan executives, using the words, "gay porn company" to convince others of the need for DMCA reform.

"I support strong protections of intellectual property," Brownback told hearing attendees. "And I will stand by my record in support of property rights against any challenge. But I cannot in good conscience support any tool such as the DMCA information subpoena that can be used by pornographers, and potentially even more distasteful actors, to collect the identifying information of Americans, especially our children."

Brownback's office did not return phone calls from the B.A.R. seeking comment.

But Titan representatives said that the irony of Brownback's statements is that Titan's defense of the DMCA comes out of concern for privacy rights, and for keeping pornography out of the hands of children.

With Brownback's financial ties to SBC, and SBC's financial gains from keeping its customers happy, said Ruoff, using the buzz words "gay porn" for DMCA reform is downright insulting.

"SBC makes more money off of pornography," he said, "than we could make in a lifetime." ▼



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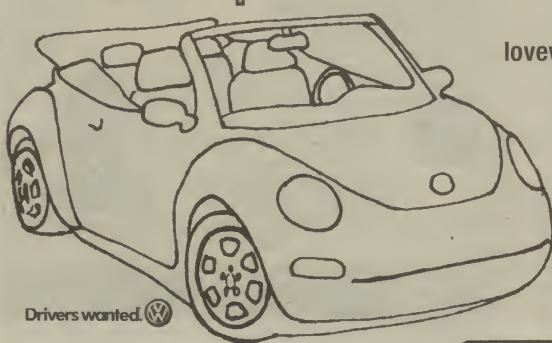
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Gay photographer Matthew F. Hudson unveils "Flagdancer," above, and other images at his Studio of A Fool's Imagination (707 Haight Street, #2) as part of ArtSpan's Open Studios, which kicks off this weekend, October 4 and 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., in select neighborhoods. Hundreds of artists will be opening their studios to the public in the Richmond, Sunset, Marina, Pacific Heights, Haight, Hayes Valley, Buena Vista, West Portal, Diamond Heights, Twin Peaks, and Mount Davidson. Next weekend (October 11 and 12) is when artists will be showing in the Castro, Duboce Triangle, Mission, Noe Valley, Glen Park, Bernal Heights, and Eureka Valley. For details, call ArtSpan at (415) 262-0982 or visit www.sopenstudios.com.

Democratic presidential contender Dennis Kucinich stumps in SF

by Matthew S. Bakko

Unless you look closely, you could miss the fact that Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich, one of three candidates out of a pack of 10 who supports same-sex marriage, is running for the 2004 Democratic nomination for president.

Trailing toward the back of the pack in voter polls, Kucinich's campaign has been mostly blacked out by the national news media and his supporters are derisively referred to as Kucinichistas.

His opposition to the war in Iraq and his use of the Internet has been largely overshadowed by former Vermont Governor Howard Dean. His stance against the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy has been eclipsed by retired General Wesley Clark's entrance into the race, who also supports gays serving in the military.

Even the national gay news media has largely ignored Kucinich, opting instead to focus on Dean, who signed into law the nation's only civil union bill but has stopped short of endorsing same-sex marriage, and Congressman Richard Gephardt, who gave his lesbian daughter, Chrissy, a prominent role in his campaign. Like Dean, Gephardt favors civil unions over same-sex marriage.

Kucinich has likened civil unions to the discredited policies of racial segregation. Instead, he



Democratic presidential hopeful Representative Dennis Kucinich at the LGBT Community Center.

Jane Philomen O'Leary

favors federal protections for same-sex marriage, stating, "Civil unions, domestic partnerships, and state-only benefits for same-sex couples fall under the 'separate but equal' mentality that has been used to justify segregation."

But getting that message across to voters is proving difficult for the former mayor of Cleveland who has worked as a media consultant and television commentator. Locally, Kucinich's visit to the Bay Area this past weekend went large-

page 20 ►

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The treatment will involve twice a day injections. Most study visits will take place at San Francisco General Hospital and will include periods of hospitalization on a research ward.

Participants who finish the study will be paid \$1,000.

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A Test of Leadership on HIV Prevention

Human Rights Watch wrote to Gov. Gray Davis urging him to sign SB 774 which will allow adults to purchase up to 30 syringes without a prescription in order to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS:

"Government-sponsored evaluations of both needle exchange and nonprescription pharmacy sales of syringes show that these programs dramatically reduce rates of HIV and hepatitis C prevention; provide impetus for the safe disposal of used syringes; and do not increase rates of drug use. Restricting these programs in the face of unassailable scientific evidence represents an affront to public health, and violates injection drug users' internationally recognized human right to take steps to protect themselves from epidemic disease..."

Senate Bill 774 is a test of your leadership on HIV prevention and human rights. We urge you to sign it into law."

You too can send a letter to the Governor by logging onto www.HelpStopAIDS.com or calling the Drug Policy Alliance Network at 415-267-6129 or 323-254-4498

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Watch this Space... More to Come

TARC 'Gold Rush' musical event celebrates community

by Zak Szymanski

What do performers Juanita More, Spencer Day, Veronica Putanesca, Glamamore, Suppositori Spelling, Trixie Carr, Riley, Laura Rogers, Van Vereen, Hollis Hayden, Jackie Ingles, Tammy Hall, Dan Fabricant, Brian Carmody and Yair Evnine all have in common? Besides being sought-after for their talent and show-stopping stage work, all of them will appear at "Gold Rush" at the Great American Music Hall on Monday, October 6, from 6-9 p.m.

An annual fundraiser for the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, the musical extravaganza will also honor Jay Cohen for his ongoing philanthropic endeavors; the staff of the University of San Francisco Positive Health Program at San Francisco General Hospital; and Abbott Laboratories for continued support to Tenderloin residents living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS.

The event will include a light gourmet meal, an open wine and beer bar, and a full evening of entertainment. TARC is expecting attendance of about 500 celebrants.

Gold Rush is TARC's largest effort of the year to raise funds. Tickets are \$100 per person and proceeds benefit the work of TARC, which serves homeless and marginally-housed Tenderloin citizens.

Organizers of the national "Positively Together" retreat are hoping scholarships and close proximity will draw Bay Area residents affected by HIV/AIDS to the event later this month.

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL

izens with a weekday breakfast program; nutritional supplementation; syringe exchange; HIV emergency and long-term housing; and on-site primary HIV medical care. The organization serves about 700 individuals living with HIV/AIDS each year and

provides services to 6,000 home-less individuals.

The Great American Music Hall is located at 859 O'Farrell Street between Larkin and Polk. For tickets to Monday's event, call (415) 241-2545 or visit www.tarscf.org. ▼

'Positively Together' retreat approaching

by Peter Meredith

Organizers of the national "Positively Together" retreat are hoping scholarships and close proximity will draw Bay Area residents affected by HIV/AIDS to the event later this month.

The October 24-26 retreat on the Monterey Peninsula is an empowering and educational event for HIV-positive people, friends, and service providers, according to the nonprofit AIDS, Medicine, and Miracles.

"The weekend gives us a chance to build community, to laugh, and to learn from workshops and each other," said AMM chairperson Gregg Cassin. "We give people the opportunity to take something painful and use it as an opportunity for growth."

Retreat participants can choose from activities and workshops such as treatment updates, beach walks, mediation sessions, sex and dating workshops, evening bonfires, and lectures on positive approaches to living with HIV.

The retreat is accessible regardless of income, said Cassin. A donation from Citibank makes scholarships available to those with financial limitations. Scholarship recipients pay \$50 for room, board, and the retreat.

AMM also offers a reduced registration fee of \$150 for anyone living with HIV. If needed, the organization will also provide transportation from the Bay Area to the Asilomar Conference Center, which is two hours away from San Francisco.

The weekend will bring together a wide range of communities affected by HIV, organizers said. A women's forum, Spanish-language forum, and other programming helps draw a diverse group of around 200 participants, Cassin noted.

"Attending AMM retreats has allowed me to connect with people from all walks of life," agreed Steven Abbott, a former board member of the organization who has been attending retreats for the past 10 years. "Retreats are a place where we all go through the process of discovery together."

Participants often leave the retreats with a greater sense of self-esteem and a feeling of community, said Abbott. "For me, attending created an ongoing extended family."

Organizers are asking attendees to sign up for the retreat by next Thursday, October 9. Those seeking scholarships are asked to sign up as soon as possible. More information can be found at www.aidsmedicineandmiracles.org or by calling 1-800-875-8770. ▼

Leal snags SFPD Pride Alliance endorsement

by Cynthia Laird

City Treasurer Susan Leal has received the endorsement of gay and lesbian police officers in her bid to become San Francisco's next mayor.

The San Francisco Police Officers' Pride Alliance, an employee group with about 200 members and the second largest employee organization after the Police Officers Association, overwhelmingly endorsed Leal at the group's membership meeting last week. Leal won 90 percent of the votes cast by Pride Alliance members, according to a statement distributed by the Leal campaign.

The Pride Alliance was formally started last year, shortly after Officer Jon Cook was killed in a car crash while responding to a call. Cook was the first openly gay officer to die in the line of duty. Since its formation, the alliance has pushed for reform and accountability within the troubled department.

"By endorsing Susan Leal for mayor, the SFPD Pride Alliance voted for change and for a new way of doing business," said co-chair Inspector Lea Milletto. "I'm proud of our members and we'll be working very hard to make Susan our next mayor."

Leal said she was "humbled" to

next page ►



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Humorous help available for people with serious illnesses

by Zak Szymanski

Laughter is the best medicine, then people with chronic or life threatening illnesses are about to have access to some of the best treatment around.

Laughing Stock, a program of Bay Area Theatre Sports, offers free-of-charge improvisational comedy workshops to people with HIV/AIDS, cancer, hepatitis, and other diseases.

Founded by Anya Blackman Soltero and now run by Jonathan Goldman, Laughing Stock workshops take places several times a year, and include performances, specialized training classes, and professional coaching. Specialty workshops include musical improv, story telling, and movement. All of the workshops teach basic stage techniques, but none of the workshops are limited to spotlight seekers; in fact, said Goldman, the classes are a way for people to empower themselves, create community, and learn more about their inner talents.

"As adults we tend to build up defenses and get away from our creative childlike natures, but with improv we can let all that go in a safe environment. You can be anyone you choose to be," said Goldman, adding that the classes are also a great way to socialize. "Humor is a unifying thing. Nobody laughs at you; everybody laughs with you. People giggle, sometimes to the point of peeing in their pants; you know, they didn't even know that they had such humor inside them."

Laughing Stock is about to embark on a few new projects.

The first-ever women's only classes for women living with illness will be offered at the San Francisco Women's Building on Thurs-

days afternoons from 3-5 p.m. Workshops begin October 9 and run through the end of the month.

This particular workshop was made possible through a grant from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Although Goldman himself accepts no money for organizing the classes, he does pay the professional coaches – including regular coach Jerri Lawlor – a small stipend, and each class provides free refreshments and has other assorted costs.

The women's workshop not only offers women a space of their own to experiment and explore, but also provides free childcare, complete with an improv coach that leads the children in activities.

For information on the women's Laughing Stock classes, call (415) 431-1180, extension 11, or e-mail resourceroom@womensbuilding.org. Interested participants are asked to register by Friday, October 3.

Laughing Stock's general workshops run all year, with the most recent upcoming offerings including a beginner's series, held Saturdays from 2:30-4:30 p.m., beginning October 25 and running through November 22. Classes will be held in the Gazebo Room at California Pacific Medical Center's Davies Campus, an activity area set up on the plaza that boasts views of the city.

In the winter, said Goldman, Laughing Stock plans to offer expansion workshops for caregivers and providers, whose stressful occupations may require some emotional release and who could benefit from knowing about how such a program may be useful to their clients.

Additionally, a handful of Laughing Stock loyalists and repeat clients have formed a perfor-

mance troupe called the Mirth Brokers, which has performed at care centers as well as Q-comedy, and will make an appearance at a Laughing Stock fundraiser in a couple of weeks.

The Laughing Stock benefit show is \$12 and features a variety of area and international talent; the show takes place Friday, October 17 at 8 p.m. at Fort Mason's Bayfront Theater. For tickets, call (415) 474-8935. All proceeds allow Laughing Stock to continue its work in the community.

With a range of participants from 20-60 years old, Laughing Stock, said Goldman, is for anyone with an illness who has felt the need to take risks and just have some good fun.

"In our workshops, success is measured by the attempt, not the final product. If you've tried, you've succeeded," said Goldman, who speaks so highly of Laughing Stock that he sometimes has to clarify that he hasn't joined a cult.

"Everybody," said Goldman, "comes away feeling better about themselves." ▼

More information can be found about BATS and Laughing Stock at www.improv.org.

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receive the endorsement.

"I'm humbled to receive such strong support from so many brave men and women who serve our city on the frontlines every day," Leal said in a statement. "As mayor, I'll see that their hard

work, integrity, and courage are rewarded by the reformed department and accountable leadership they deserve."

Earlier this year, Leal also received the endorsement of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club. The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club endorsed Supervisor Tom Ammiano for mayor. The mayoral election is November 4. ▼

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Kucinich

◀ page 16

ly unreported. The candidate arrived at a breakfast fundraiser at Fort Mason unencumbered by the pack of national reporters assigned to cover the presidential race. Nor were television cameras in sight.

Even Governor Gray Davis, eager to be seen with any national Democratic figure as he campaigns to keep his job and defeat the recall, did not bother to schedule an appearance with Kucinich as he campaigned in the state. Along with appearances in San Francisco and Oakland, Kucinich stopped in Los Angeles to meet with a local gay group and raise money.

In an interview with the Bay Area Reporter, Kucinich said he is undeterred by the media's lack of attention to his candidacy.

"I am ready to be discovered," said Kucinich, who turns 57 on October 8. "There is plenty of time. The election is not over. A lot can happen in the next four months."

To gain some traction, as well as perhaps more media coverage, Kucinich's campaign has released what it calls "The Pink Paper," a challenge to gay rights organizations to demand that the other major Democratic challengers endorse same-sex marriage. Like Kucinich, the Reverend Al Sharpton and former Illinois Senator Carol Moseley Braun are on record as supporting same-sex marriage.

Written by out lesbian Mari Engelhardt, Kucinich's director of national LGBT outreach, the campaign tactic has targeted the Stonewall Democrats and the

Human Rights Campaign in particular, with an eye toward those groups' endorsements in the race.

The paper states that supporting same-sex marriage is a courageous act and would draw a clear distinction between the Democratic and Republican parties.

"Dennis Kucinich has this kind of courage. His overriding philosophy on issues of gay rights is that same-sex couples and opposite sex couples should be equal in the eyes of the law – period. Equality before the law includes marriage, a position that separates him from other Democratic presidential candidates," writes Engelhardt.

Friendship with gay couple

Kucinich's strong stance on gay rights stems from a 36-year friendship with a gay male couple from Cleveland. One of the life partners taught Kucinich in college, and the two men have re-

marijuana clinics and refocus it on more important crimes.

"It is not a blind-eye approach. It's an understanding and articulation of what law enforcement priorities would be. Why in the world is it a priority for the Justice Department to conduct raids against medical marijuana?" asked Kucinich. "In a Kucinich administration my Justice Department will be very busy breaking up monopolies in the agriculture and energy business, prosecuting white collar crime and corruption on Wall Street."

When asked if he agreed with calls from his Democratic colleagues and progressive groups for the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Kucinich demurred, saying only, "I am running for president to replace the entire administration."

More than 200 people attended a forum with the congressman at

"I am ready to be discovered. There is plenty of time. The election is not over. A lot can happen in the next four months."

mained close ever since. The friendship led him to vote against the antigay Defense of Marriage Act Congress passed in 1996.

He has been a vocal opponent against the constitutional amendment that would define marriage as solely between a man and a woman, and was the first 2004 presidential candidate to sign LGBT activist Robin Tyler's "Don't Amend" petition at www.dontamend.com.

"It would create a two-class society in America along the lines of sexual orientation," he said. "I have not hesitated to speak out in every forum of the importance of allowing people to be able to love who they want to love and want to marry without any qualifications to sexual orientation."

The chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Kucinich's stances seem more aligned with the Green Party than with the Democrats. He supports a national health care system, abandoning the North America Free Trade Agreement and the World Health Organization, legalizing medical marijuana, and handing over the reconstruction of Iraq to the auspices of the United Nations.

He has also called for the formation of a Department of Peace and has labeled the Justice Department the "Injustice Department." If elected president, Kucinich said he would end the department's raids on medical

the LGBT Community Center Saturday afternoon. Sitting before a rainbow flag with a depiction of the Statue of Liberty, Kucinich listened to a panel of speakers discuss HIV prevention, youth issues, gay rights, and Proposition 54, the state initiative that would ban collecting racial data. (Kucinich has come out against the measure.)

Reiterating his views on gay rights and the war in Iraq, he received several extended moments of applause and a standing ovation. But while the audience clearly supported the congressman's views, one nagging question was repeatedly raised.

"How can you make yourself perceived to be by the American public as someone who is electable?" asked one man.

After joking about his diminutive size – he stands 5 foot 6 inches tall – he said, "The media poobahs like to decide who is elected. If it was left to the media, Bush would have been elected again after he bombed Iraq."

Like the underground movements that helped bring down communism in Russia and Eastern Europe, Kucinich said of his campaign, "This revolution will not be televised."

Yet the question remained, with another man asking, "The problem is, how do we get you into the White House in 2004?"

Answered Kucinich, that being "the last question is an appropriate one." ▀

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Safe sex Web site debuts

by Matthew S. Bjorko

In an effort to foster an environment where safe sex practices are promoted and welcomed, a local gay man has launched a new Web site for men who don condoms.

The site, which launched nationwide on Wednesday, October 1, can be found at www.safesexity.com. It features everything from information about protecting oneself from HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases to profiles of men who practice safe sex from across the country.

The brainchild of Frank Strona, the HIV prevention manager at San Francisco's Walden House, the new sex site aims to counter a growing trend of barebacking and other unsafe sexual practices among men who surf the Internet. By launching the site, Strona aims to provide men a space online where they are not afraid to state they use condoms.

"The idea is posting to get laid or have encounters joined with men's health and wellness resources, social listings, and community conversations," said Strona. "We're combining it and saying it's great you are interested in getting laid but at the same time do you know this is going on?"

After interviewing men about their online life, Strona said he found that "the minute you add things like condoms or rubbers to profiles, you were not getting as many hits." Because of this, "men out there who might traditionally use a condom, plan on using it, but were not putting it in their profiles."

In the past, health officials have tried to pressure various Web sites into posting safe sex messages or giving them access to chat rooms, with various degrees of success. Strona, who sits on San Francisco's HIV Prevention Planning Council, said after witnessing those battles he thought it was time to take a different approach.

"What if, instead of trying to invade our way into programs that really don't want to add prevention messages to their programs, we develop something more client focused? There are men who want to use condoms," he said. "There are a lot of couples, who with each other may not



Frank Strona, left, director of safesexity.com, and Jon Albert, of LAXtra Inc., a supporter and sponsor of the new site.

use them, but if they go out they use them.

"We thought, why not see what happens when we build a structure that not only provides you with opportunities to meet friends, meet for encounters, meet for relationships but also has men's wellness in mind," he said.

The sex site will offer most of its content about safer sex information, discussion boards, and current news for free. In order to access the site's premium services, users will need to pay a monthly fee, which Strona expects to be \$7.

Once the site is established and men have signed up as users, Strona said that starting in November men who access the site will see reminder notices about getting tested for HIV and STDs every six months. The site will also send users an e-mail toward the end of those six months to remind them to get tested and provide a list of testing sites in their area.

Strona has spent \$8,000 in launching the site, \$5,000 of which came from private donors and the rest from his own pocket.

Since the site is privately owned and operated, it does not have to adhere to federal regulations that many AIDS agencies contend hamper their ability to work with gay men.

"We need to go back to taking things into our own hands," said Strona. "I felt it was time to put my money where my mouth was." ▼

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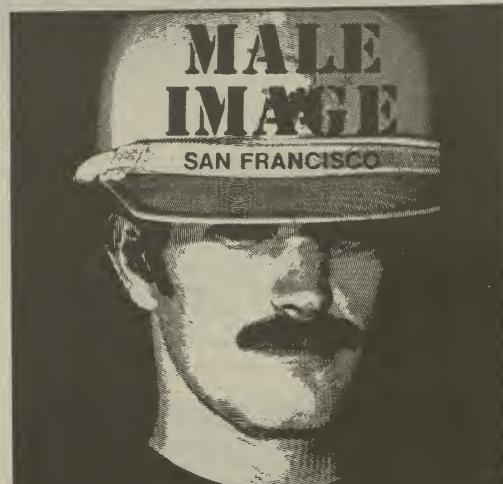
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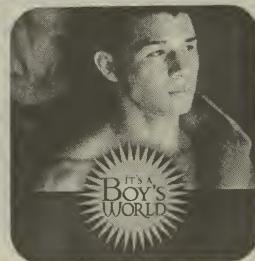


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Gay youth

◀ page 1

swering long-standing complaints about the agency's impact on the neighborhood.

"We did a strategic planning process the last couple of months and our consultants did interviews with the neighbors. There is still a sense that LYRIC is not viewed as a positive and there is a negative perception of LYRIC at this time," said Tham. "Our being in the neighborhood is definitely viewed as a problem. It is dire enough that we need to do something now or move out. If we are not welcome here, we can't do what we want to do with our participants."

Tham said the agency has considered if it should move out of its present location at 127 Collingwood, across from the Eureka Valley Recreation Center.

"We are considering that, if it is conducive for us to be here," she said. "But even if we move out, people are still going to come here. We need to work together to resolve the issues."

The agency is discussing internally what changes it can make to



Supervisor Bevan Duffy, center, meets with LGBT youth advocates and city officials last month to discuss interim plans for queer youth programs formerly housed in the Eureka Valley Recreation Center.

9 o'clock. We don't control youth on Sunday. We don't control youth at all," said Green.

Added David, "I don't feel it's fair to put it all on LYRIC. All youth don't come to LYRIC. There are people out there at times who have confrontations with the cops. Usually it is over something dumb."

He said the community just needs a chance to see that the youth can make positive contributions to the neighborhood and hopes LYRIC does host more events in the community like the coffee nights at Tully's.

"If LYRIC did more things with the neighborhood, simple things just to really get our name out there, then they would not just see a bunch of rowdy kids who are hecka loud," said David.

Renewed focus

The problems experienced this summer have put a renewed focus on what services are being offered to queer youth in the Castro and have highlighted the need for late night spaces that are welcoming to youth.

"There is nothing for the youth in the Castro. It is an adult entertainment area," said Limbert. "Right now hanging in front of the bars and dancing in the streets causing problems at 2 a.m. is causing a problem."

It also reinforced the need for LYRIC to approach its neighbors. Green, who has been attending LYRIC for six years and has served on its board for the last two, readily admits the agency in the past has not reached out to the community.

"In the past LYRIC has been withdrawn and very insular," he said. "We were not going out there and talking to people about why we exist and explaining what we have control over and what we do here. We are beginning to build those bridges."

Tham recently spoke at a meeting of the area's homeowners association, the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, and is working in conjunction with District 8 Supervisor Bevan Duffy's office on his plans for expanding services for queer youth.

Gustavo Serina, EVPA's president, said the community is supportive of Duffy's and LYRIC's efforts to address increasing and improving youth services. Of the dialogue which has been started between the neighbors and LYRIC, Serina said it can only help to improve the situation.

"We want to have open communication and we want to work with LYRIC and it is very clear they want to work with us. So I am very optimistic about that," said Serina. "With open communication I think things can probably be worked out."

Duffy is using the closure this month of the Eureka Valley Recreation Center for a two-year remodeling and construction project as the impetus to review and expand what services and programs the city offers queer youth.

He has begun to meet monthly with agencies that serve LGBT youth and is working with the city's Department of Children, Youth and Their Families to create an intervention team that could help youth in the Castro access homeless, substance abuse, and mental health services. LYRIC estimates between 20 to 40 percent of its drop-in youth need some such assistance.

Duffy also helped broker a deal between the LGBT Community Center and the Recreation and Park Department to relocate the Eureka Valley Teen Program, run by Mitch Thompson, into the

page 25 ▶

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Former prisoner has 'culture shock'

by Ed Walsh

Mark Smith felt like he was reborn in a Wal-Mart store last Thursday night, September 25. It may have been the most extraordinary ordinary event of his life. It was his first taste of freedom in more than 18 years.

Two parole agents had picked up Smith about an hour earlier at the California Men's Colony prison in San Luis Obispo, about halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. They were to take him to a rendezvous point, a parking lot in Oxnard, to meet up with his mother and stepfather. Freed inmates are usually not escorted out of prison by parole agents but that procedure was followed in his case because the case was considered high profile.

Smith said the parole agents asked if he was being bothered by the media. He explained that to the contrary, he appreciated the media focusing attention on his case and cited a *Los Angeles Times* editorial that called for his release.

Smith gave away a lot of his belongings to fellow inmates. He packed the remaining three apple boxes full of possessions into the agents' car in the prison parking lot. The trio headed south to the rendezvous point.

The newly freed prisoner asked to stop for a hamburger. It was a food that he dreamed about during his years behind bars. Although hamburgers are occasionally served in prison, he explained that the meat has a raw taste, like uncooked chicken, and he couldn't bring himself to eat it. At first the agents refused to stop but they finally relented in Santa Maria, in Santa Barbara County.

They stopped at a Wal-Mart store that had a McDonald's restaurant inside. As soon as Smith stepped out of the car, he was hit by a symphony of smells, mostly of food that was being cooked at nearby fast food restaurants.

"I smelled all the smells I haven't smelled in all those years," Smith told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It was like the whole world was alive. The air in prison is dead."

Smith was amazed just to look up and see the stars.

Once inside the Wal-Mart, he was awestruck by the high ceilings and huge variety of merchandise everywhere. He got his dream food, a Big Mac, French fries, and a Coke.

When he met his parents in Oxnard, he hugged them and became overwhelmed with emotions.

His parents took him to their home in Sun Valley, near Burbank. He was unable to sleep that night. His mind raced as he thought of everything he had to do for himself now, including little things like getting a driver's license and bigger things like dealing with his health problems.

Smith's view of the world was frozen in 1985. He was stunned to see all the changes since he was last free, especially all the new technology and people everywhere talking on cell phones.

"It's a culture shock," he explained. "It's like the Jetsons out here now."

Friends and relatives stopped by and took him to various places nearby. He jokingly tells strangers that he's been in a coma for 20 years when they notice his wide-eyed appreciation of mundane things and his unfamiliarity with modern technology.

He explained that he was stunned to see all the high tech

items for sale while visiting a Costco store. Last weekend he was taken to a Starbucks for the first time. He ordered a vanilla latte with whipped cream.

"We sat at a table on padded chairs. It was like heaven," Smith said.

Smith's brother, who is also openly gay, took him to West Hollywood, where Smith spent much of his time before his arrest. Smith said he was impressed by all the improvements and changes to the area.

The visit to West Hollywood was undoubtedly also a bittersweet reminder for Smith of his involvement in the 1980s cocaine-fueled fast lane that eventually led to him being implicated in a murder. Smith said that reluctantly, for now, he could not publicly discuss the crime until and if he is able to clear it with his attorneys. Because he is scheduled to be on parole for the next three years, he has to be cautious about what he says. On the record, Smith maintained his innocence during his trial. The parole board generally frowns on any prisoner who says he's innocent after conviction. Smith has expressed remorse for not being able to prevent the murder.

Smith said freedom has given him an appreciation for some of the simple things most people take for granted. He was awestruck when he walked on the hardwood floors at a friend's house and on a carpet.

"It just felt so luxurious," he explained.

His mother, Dolores Padilla, wrote to him every day for 18 years when he was behind bars. He said that the letter carrier at his mother's home was taken aback because for the first time, there were no outgoing letters to pick up. ▶

Prisoner freed

◀ page 1

ed cocaine. Smith opted for a trial by a judge rather than a jury. He maintained his innocence and said that he never witnessed the killing.

The judge who found him guilty two decades ago was one of the strongest advocates for his parole. Another judge from Santa Cruz County also lobbied for Smith's release because he came forward with information that resulted in the successful prosecution of the killer of a toddler. The judge said he was impressed because Smith put himself at risk by coming forward but didn't ask anything in return.

In an exclusive interview from prison, Smith's co-defendant, Kevin Leigh, told the *B.A.R.* that he, not Smith, killed Diamonon, although he said that Smith was involved in the crime. Leigh said that Smith intended to scare Diamonon by firing a gun toward him in the darkness. Diamonon was hit by gunfire in the leg and arm. Leigh said that he then went after Diamonon, fought with him, and drowned him in a creek. According to the coroner's report, Diamonon's cause of death was drowning.

Leigh phoned this reporter from prison on Monday, September 29, to ask whether the rumors he heard about Smith's release were true.

"I wish him the best," Leigh

said after getting confirmation. "I wish him success. I hope he gets the proper medical attention."

Leigh is also fighting for parole. His next parole hearing is scheduled for next month and his lawyer is also challenging the parole board's earlier denials in court.

Smith suffers from AIDS, cancer, heart disease, and Parkinson's disease. In interviews before he was released, Smith said that at times his struggle for freedom has been motivated by a hope to die free. He is dealing with a new health scare now. He explained that just last month, a radiologist found a couple of suspicious spots in a chest X-ray that could be signs that cancer has returned. One of the first things on his agenda this week is to schedule a doctor's appointment.

Long battle

The Board of Prison Terms, which only approves parole for about 1 percent of eligible candidates, ordered that Smith be freed three years ago, but Davis blocked his release, writing that Smith was a person "with little regard for human life." Smith's lawyers challenged Davis's veto in Los Angeles County Superior Court. In a sharply worded decision, Judge Keith Schwartz blasted the governor's parole veto and wrote that Davis had confused Smith with Leigh. Davis had confused Schwartz's decision to the California Supreme Court. The high court

eventually tossed the case back to the appeals court. The appeals court sided with Smith and ordered his release but Davis again appealed to the Supreme Court. Last Wednesday, September 24, the Supreme Court refused to hear the case, resulting in an affirmation of the lower court's ruling that ordered Smith's immediate release. He walked out of prison 24 hours later.

Smith's case can be cited as precedent for other inmates who are fighting for parole. When the high court refused to hear his case, it also refused to "depublish" the lower courts' decisions in his favor.

"I'm overjoyed that Mark was let out," said Judy Greenspan of

page 25 ▶

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Lesbian directs recruitment

by Eric Ganther

Who: Erin Flynn
What: Director of corporate and executive recruitment at PeopleSoft
Where: Pleasanton, California

Scandal-tinged and roughed up by the markets, the word "corporation" evokes negative images for many queer people. But corporations are a fact of our global economy, and many queers like the challenge of working within them to shape corporate culture. Bay Area corporations not only tolerate us, they need us; they need our fresh perspectives and our unconventional views. They wisely utilize our tenacity, sensitivity, and eye for excellence to keep their companies running smoothly. In this case, the eye for excellence sees through a pair of fashionable glasses owned by Erin Flynn, lesbian, and director of corporate and executive recruiting for PeopleSoft.

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of the company in the high tech recession?

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How did you get started in corporate recruiting?

I've been with PeopleSoft for two years, and I've been a recruiter for 10. Before PeopleSoft I was doing retained executive search as a consultant. My firm had clients like Disney, Playboy, Microsoft, Sony, etc. – fascinating, exciting, but I wasn't really a part of the company. I was kind of a midwife and I never got to see the ongoing connection between the executives and their staff. I went to PeopleSoft because I wanted to spend some time inside a corporation and understand the impulse behind attracting, retaining, and refreshing top talent. And now I direct both staffing recruitment and

executive recruitment.

What does a typical day look like?

I'm a director so I manage staff. Most of my day is spent with division heads forecasting talent needs. I attend a lot of meetings; we discuss upcoming product development and I build strategies to find the talent necessary to build the product.

What do you like about your work as director of recruitment?

I really enjoy what I do. There is so much talent in the Bay Area. The level of education and business savvy is very high. I feel like I'm surrounded by rock stars and sometimes

they act based on my recommendations.

I feel accomplished when I can find synergies within the company, or externally, and bring them together. I spend a lot of energy getting "buy-in" to my ideas, or my team's ideas, or my boss's ideas. Getting people behind you and getting that support is fulfilling. And what I hope to see is for it to turn into momentum.

Right now, I'm energized by our purchase of JD Edwards. Integrating 4,000 people into the company is intense ... and exciting, but there's also a lot of uncertainty. It's notoriously difficult to merge two fairly mature companies.

What do you not like about being a corporate director?

Meetings. It's very difficult to initiate action in a large corporation. I'm amazed by how many barriers there are. When I first switched from consulting with corporations to working in one, I saw a lot of mediocrity. They were all about the foosball and the bagels. At first I wanted to run back to consulting, where I felt the people were more intellectual, more rigorous in their method. Now I look mediocrity right in the eye and challenge it. I try to inject some intensity into the workplace.

Do you work a lot?

I work a lot but most of the time I don't work weekends. Being a member of the PeopleSoft/JD Edwards staffing integration team, I've definitely had some 60-hour work weeks lately. But generally, I worked longer hours as a consultant than I do currently, I also earn less money. I made the trade-off because I wanted a different work/life balance.

What's your work philosophy?

I go to work ... to work. Certainly, I have a playful side, but I'm very focused on execution when I'm working. I have a strong work ethic. My father owns his own business and I remember watching him build it from the ground up. I derive a lot of self-esteem from my job, from feeling successful, from feeling like I'm making a difference.

What do you do when you're sick of it?

I leave. I come home. We just bought this house, a 1911 Craftsman bungalow, in Rockridge [in Oakland], and it's been quite a project. My partner, Chloe, and I have been having a good time with it. I also read a lot. I read the *New Yorker* religiously. I like reading books about leadership and good fiction. I'm just finishing *The DaVinci Code*.

What makes a good director of corporate recruitment?

Being able to make decisions in the midst of great uncertainty is the greatest challenge. Sometimes you have to recognize that you've screwed up and go back and change the decision or recover. But it's essential to make the decision. Act. If you can't act decisively, then you're not an effective director.

I make decisions all day. I remove obstacles for my people and I try to get in front of issues before they become problems. Their role is to hire those 1,200 or so people every year. My role is to ensure that it's the smoothest ride possible and that they're having a good time doing it.

How "out" can you be where you work?

I'm very out. Everybody who works for me and works immediately around me knows that I have a partner and her name is Chloe and she's a fine art photographer. Most of them have met her. It's so much easier to be out at work when you have a partner because you have a way to come out. PeopleSoft is a very comfortable work environment for me. I'm happy about that.

How many LGBT people do you work with?

We don't track it, but it feels like a fair amount. We have a gay and lesbian [employee] organization



PeopleSoft's Erin Flynn

tion and a newsletter. On my team I have two gay men working for me. There's another lesbian who's a peer of mine.

I like being queer where I work. I've had experiences that not everyone around me has and they respect it. Then there's the whole lesbian "hip." People at work will say to me, "you all wear such cool glasses." And sure enough all the queer people I know at PeopleSoft have cute glasses. I used to be intimidated by straight men's clubs of corporate America, but the funniest, coolest thing about being queer is that we have our own club.

How has being a lesbian influenced your work life?

That's a really good question. As a teenager, I always knew that I would have a career. It was the 1980s and I couldn't wait to get a suit with huge shoulder pads! For a while I was a "driver" within the lesbian community. I worked on the Dyke March Committee for five or six years and it brought out the scrappy, tenacious spirit in me. And that helps me in the work place. But I could also chalk that tenacity up to team sports. I don't know that I can tie it to my queerness.

I have to be supremely confident in my role at work. The challenge being a female and lesbian executive is that there's always that balance between being aggressive and being a bitch. And being a lesbian it seems to be easier for people to automatically see you in the bitch role. But my personality is extremely good natured. I use the carrot and not the stick.

What's the role of LGBT people in the corporate world?

By our very existence, we queers encourage others (our peers, our staff, our managers) to seek out ideas from different sources. And I think diversity of opinion is really important in corporate America. You never know where the next big idea is going to come from. And just because it's always been done this way, doesn't mean that it couldn't be done that way, when that way's better.

Have you gotten flack from other queers for working at a corporation?

When I first came to San Francisco a lot of my lesbian friends were freaked out because I felt I was worth making good money. We would argue about downward mobility. And I'd argue that it's okay to have drive. They might have seen me as a paper pusher, or a bureaucrat, or a corporate wonk. But I like the challenge. In my early 20s I was shy about wanting to have a career, not just a job. Now, I like having the money to buy a house. I like bringing home the bacon.

What would you recommend to someone with an interest in recruiting?

next page ►



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STOP AIDS PROJECT

OBITUARIES

Roland Espinosa
February 18, 1961 —
September 22, 2003



We lost one of a kind at 9:10 p.m. September 22, when Roland Espinosa, 42, of Oakland, passed away after a long and brave fight with AIDS. At his side were his life partner, Tim Oviatt, and close friends, including Megan Gilbert and Lamar St. John.

Born in Salt Lake City on February 18, 1961, Roland was raised in Hawthorne, Nevada. He lived in Las Vegas and Reno before settling in the Bay Area. He and Tim met on November 29, 1986, and enjoyed 17 years of deep love and happiness. Roland was a genius at decoration, as was obvious

with the inspired window displays he created at the couple's Castro store, All American Boy. And not a Halloween passed without Roland producing amazing feathered masks and outrageous costumes ranging from his own shimmering beaded dresses to the prett-as-pink look for all store employees.

Roland was a feisty guy who could get testy if pushed the wrong way, but was always loyal and loving to those who touched his heart. Mischievous by nature, Roland could give a withering look followed by a smirk and a smile that let you know he was just playing.

Besides Tim, Roland is survived by brothers Bobby, Bruce, Tony and Jeff Espinosa, as well as numerous uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces. Please join Tim, the couple's dogs Zoe and Emma and their extended family for a celebration of Roland's life on Sunday, October 12, at their Oakland hills home. Call (510) 531-5559 for time and directions.

Go gently into that good night our love. You will always be in our lives.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.



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CHUCK LARGENT, FAMED PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, Dies

The lights are dim on Broadway.
Charles E. (Chuck) Largent, former
Executive Director and producer at
Chicago's Encore Theatre, died Tuesday,
September 2, in San Francisco after a short
illness. Largent, 63, was a native of
Midlothian, Illinois.

Largent moved to San Francisco, where he
continued to produce and direct musicals at various
theatres and clubs until his death. In 1972, he directed
the first all male cast production of "Mame" and
in 1977, at the Golden Gate Theatre,
directed such hits as "Sweet Charity".

In the 80's, he returned to one of his first loves, senior citizens,
putting on concerts at Villa Fontaine Retirement Center in San Jose.
The 90's were even busier for him. He started "The Joe Sent Me Club"
where he turned his apartment into a theatre and created magic putting
on shows such as "Into The Woods", "Guys and Dolls"
and "Once Upon A Mattress".

He also started "The Magical Musical Bus Tour" with performances from local well
known personalities such as Empress I. Jose, Empress II. Bella and J.J. Van Dyke to
name a few. Also, he started a cabaret revue in Santa Cruz called Senior-sma.

He was a good friend to both the Imperial and Ducal families, and was a member
of the G.O.'s. His legacy will be the hundreds of audiences who were entertained by
his productions and the scores of actors who did go on to professional careers.
A Celebration of his life with musical tributes will be held at Marlene's
188 Heyer St. on Oct. 22nd at 3:00pm. Donations to go to Open Hand.

For information:
David 415-282-4482 Ray 415-626-3799

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Gay youth

◀ page 22

community center on October 15 while the rec center is closed.

Initially, the teen program will consist of an afternoon drop-in Mondays through Fridays from 2 to 6 p.m. and three evenings a week from 6 to 9 p.m. as well as a drop-in movie night on Mondays, a discussion group focusing on the issues queer youth face today, and a Thursday night arts and expression evening. The center has dedicated the ground floor space in the Victorian side of the building for the teen program.

Thom Lynch, the community center's executive director, said moving and expanding the queer youth programs into the building helps to meet one of the goals he hoped to accomplish within his first six months on the job. He noted the new room can hold up to 40 people and once a cafe opens, he expects the youth will have another space to call their own.

"It is something the commun-

ity has asked us to do and something the community wants us to do here," he said.

By November, Duffy and recreation officials hope to expand the youth programming so there are activities on Friday and Saturday nights. In order to pay for the programs, Duffy said he is going to turn to the community for donations and estimates he needs to raise at least \$30,000.

"Mitch cannot be here until midnight right now. It is a tight budget year and the community is going to have to step up to the plate," said Duffy. "The goal is within 30 days to have the resources to go longer hours."

During a meeting last month with the EVPA, Duffy explained he wants "to create a whole new level of capacity so when the youth program reopens [in the rec center] in two years there is a higher level of community involvement."

While Thompson said the youth in his program are looking forward to the move, the youth at LYRIC said it will take some outreach to get other kids to check

out the program. They called the old community center youth space "a broom closet" and remain skeptical that a late night program there can be successful.

"The center is clearly not based for youth; it is based for people with money," said Green. "They need to build a level of trust so that this is not just seen as a politician's way of getting people to vote."

Though Green said the possibilities of what the center can offer to youth are endless, and suggested everything from discussion groups, movies, monthly dances, to dance classes, book clubs, and drop-in times to play games.

If the center is trying to change for the better, then I am willing to support it and help it out," he said. "There are so many things people want to do after 9 o'clock that are pretty decent and pretty legal that could be put on at the center."

The relocated teen program at the LGBT Community Center is planning an open house from 5 to 9 p.m. on Monday, October 20. The center is located at 1800 Market Street. ▼

Luis Obispo, because he was told his lawyer was going to phone back with an important message for him. Shortly after getting to the office, the phone rang. It was Specter.

"Have you heard the news?" Specter asked, cognizant that a story on Smith's imminent release was in the *Los Angeles Times* that morning.

"No," Smith answered.

"The court ruled yesterday," the attorney said. "You're coming home."

Although Specter initially said that the release could be delayed until Monday, Smith was later told to pack his belongings for release that same day. Just after 6 p.m. last Thursday, Smith walked out of the prison's main gate.

Just before the final sliding chain-linked fence closed, he said that he glanced behind him, to the left and right. He said that was an acknowledgement to the prisoners who had gathered at windows throughout the complex to watch him leave. ▼

"I really thought he would be let out first, and Mark would get out on Rosenkrantz's coattails."

A spokesman for the governor, Byron Tucker, issued the following statement in response to Smith's release: "Governor Davis felt and continues to believe that Mark Smith was not suitable for release due to the extremely violent and wanton criminal act he committed. Mr. Smith and his accomplice severely beat the victim, shot him twice, and then dragged Mr. Diagonal to a creek where they murdered him by drowning the life out of him. Governor Davis has always tried to ensure that the voice of the victim is part of the parole equation and while Mr. Smith may be a sick man now, he has at least the benefit of life for the past 20 years, while the victim has not."

Smith told the B.A.R. that he was notified that he won his fight for freedom about 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 25. He was called into an office in his prison, the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo, because he was told his lawyer was going to phone back with an important message for him. Shortly after getting to the office, the phone rang. It was Specter.

Some recruiters come up from staffing or temp agencies where they learn about assessing talent. More senior recruiters often have an industrial psychology background. Either way, if you want to be in recruiting, you can't be afraid of the phone. When I hire a recruiter, the phone interview is the most important part because that's how they'll be interacting with candidates. You have to be confident and quick on your feet. You have to be able to maintain a sense of urgency. Recruiting is not

for someone who wants to hide out at their desk because you're probably on the phone for 75 percent of your day.

Thank you, it's good to know we've got friends in high places. ▼

Eric Ganther is a career coach for queers in transition. He is a workshop leader and is writing a book on gay and lesbian work identity. E-mail him your questions, comments, and suggestions: eric@ericganther.com.

Queer Careers

◀ previous page

I have a literature degree that continues to make my life a rich experience. I started by doing campus recruiting and still think it's a very good way to gain some broad information about the large companies. Then you might move up to graduate level — like MBAs or RNs. Nurse recruiters are extremely hot right now. Biotech and pharmaceuticals have a reputation for being recession-proof, and I know there's action in those

Fair enough

by Jim Provenzano

Autumnal harvest rituals of ancient times involved multiple forms of celebrating the bountiful fruits of the lands. Some of the more unusual forms of modern rural celebration take on various forms of competition that may seem remote and strange to the hip urban resident.

Visiting my parents' home in Ohio earlier this month offered a trip back to a simpler place, where even the most basic of harvest rites took on an amusing sporty nature.

The Ashland County Fairgrounds itself seemed smaller, of course, than the memories of my younger days. A quick loop past the rides and barns full of livestock (sheep, goats, chickens, even ducks) was accomplished in less than an hour, but enjoying the quaint pageantry of daily events and exhibits proved worthy of repeat visits.

The carnies used to scare me, but this time, I was easily suckered

into losing a few dollars in a feeble attempt to pop a balloon or make a basket, all for a cheap inflatable toy. Some younger guys proudly lugged such prizes from exhibits to food stands, in between daring the few swirling, roaring rides.

Take the hobby exhibits, where small showcases of collectibles revealed the pop culture sensitivities of locals. Two *Lord of the Rings* booths, with action figures, books and posters, showed that mythology and hobbies have fans even on hidden-away township roads.

The boys of Future Farmers of America, whose blue corduroy jackets bearing the FFA logo suffered some derision from the more critical of students, were among my friends in the late 1970s, partially due to their other horticultural skills far less appreciated in this more drug-leery town. But they were always generous with their "produce" en route to an Aerosmith concert.

Cookie monster

The quaint and humble gets its



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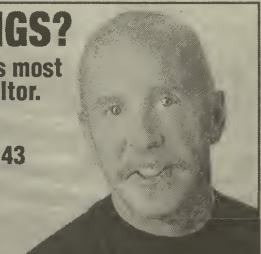
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moment of glory at such a fair, from pet rabbits dressed in doll costumes for a fashion show to 4-H booths displaying hand-sewn aprons and bluntly crafted furniture.

One of the largest exhibits included over 75 ceramic cookie jars. The exhibitor, a soft-spoken lady, pointed out the first of the collection, a simple Amish jar, and the recent acquisitions, ranging from Sesame Street characters to a little man on a John Deere tractor.

When asked if she was familiar with the artist Andy Warhol, the elderly woman drew a blank. Restraining from my volley of Factory knowledge, and his strange life and the media circus over his giant estate auction, I simply told the lady that he was a New York painter who collected cookie jars in his spare time, most of which sold for hundreds of dollars. In Ohio, understatement is the easiest form of discretion.

Strolling the fairgrounds with an old high school pal who dared to return home as a somewhat out teacher and church organist "I know, I'm a walking small town gay stereotype," he camped, as we revved up our rural gaydar between the passing glances from studly men and teenage boys. I noticed some friendly glances, but the guileless amiable friendliness received while shaking the callused hand of a handsome cowhand usually had no double meaning. People are just friendly.

Despite having been profiled in my high school's alumni newsletter a few months back, and having been agreeably outed for my writing accomplishments, few old friends brought up "the gay thing." One joked about asking for a *Queer Eye* makeover, but his Harley-Davidson cap and Carhartt garb were as fashionable as the faux-rural style in the Castro.

Cruising was understandably out of place, yet a few introductions proved somewhat flirtatious, possibly due to my being with a former high school pal, now a somewhat-out gay local. Every handsome man and tough-looking woman made for later speculation. It seemed my old friend knew some stories, or my aura piqued the interest of a few local men.

Nevertheless, I remained content to admire their skills from afar, as they bravely auctioned off cattle they'd raised, groomed, and then parted with for \$2 to \$5 a pound. Even making hamburgers is a competition.

Skillet go

Despite being fertile grounds for a PETA protest, there's something so pure about these folk; the girls in spangled outfits and cowboy hats, applying eye shadow to soften the snouts of their show horses. Shoe polish on hooves and a combed tail served as the nearest thing to a "makeover."

Other forms of domestic record-setting proved the whimsical norm, from the baby race, where toddlers crawled 10 feet, helplessly unaware of the competitive nature their parents light-heartedly encouraged. Baked goods, canned preserves, and produce displayed ribbons in various colors, proving that even pumpkins and peppers can be winners.

My parents' new neighbors' tyke won first prize over 40 other diaper-clad racers. The winner needn't remember such a pivotal Pampers moment. His dad caught



Cow. Boy.

Jim Provenzano

it all on video.

Mothers were the competitors in the amusing Skillet Toss. Harness racing, and the new addition of a small motocross race, brought captive audiences to the large grandstand, along with country-twanging musical acts.

Farm competitions were more the mainstay of the events, though. The annual tractor pull brought farmers from all over the county. Vintage John Deeres and souped-up modern tractors hauled wheeled weights of 6,000 to 12,000 pounds. Some younger competitors nearly popped wheels as their engines roared, while the more traditional vehicles tugged along with less impressive power.

The week culminated in a crash-bang smash-up fest known as the Demolition Derby. A small herd of junker cars banged into each other in a classic ritual of automotive destruction. In a sort of mini-apocalyptic sacrificial ritual of survival of the fittest, the last car still running wins.

The hilarious event proved popular, despite its contrary nature to the usual celebration of life, bittersweet animal sacrifice, and agricultural harvest. One night of Hurricane Isabel-induced rain didn't deflect the amiable rural spirit of this autumnal rite.

Frank, in sense

A memorial service for San Francisco Track and Field Club's longtime coach Frank Demby will be held Saturday, October 4, at 1 p.m., at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

For those unfamiliar with the location, the grove is across the street from the tennis courts and behind the bocce ball lawns.

Ironically, the Santa Barbara meet scheduled for that day has been canceled. Evidently, Frank wanted all GLBT tracksters and their friends to be able to attend.

For more info, visit www.support-stf.com.

Team spirit

Ross Hayduk of Team San Francisco offers a hearty thank you to the Metro City bar for hosting its fundraiser last week.

With the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in attendance helping sell raffle tickets and announce the prizes, Team SF was able to raise \$535 for its athlete's assistance fund.

Please check out the Web site, www.teamsf.org for more info on

local GLBT athletics groups and teams.

Walk on

Support the "Openhouse" members Jeanette team in the American Lung Association's "Blow the Whistle on Asthma Walk," Saturday, October 18. (Openhouse is the former Rainbow Adult Community Housing. The team is named in memory of Jeanette Gurevitch, a Bay Area psychotherapist and co-founder of the San Francisco organization. She died suddenly on January 21 of cardiac arrest at the age of 54.)

Visit www.mrsnv.com/evt/home.jsp?id=226 for more info.

To pledge to an individual walker, go to www.asthmawalk.org. Click on San Francisco. Click on pledge a walker. Enter the first or last name of the person you wish to pledge, then scroll down and select their name from the list. Enter your contribution amount, your personal information, and your credit card information.

For more information about Openhouse, visit www.openhouse-sf.org.

Niner that

Attention football fans. This Sunday's 49ers game against the Detroit Lions will include a salute to Niners alumni, including the first former pro athlete to come out, David Kopay.

Kopay was drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in 1964 and spent 10 years in the NFL. In his first year, he emerged as the 49ers' leading rusher. He was traded to the Detroit Lions in 1968, to the Washington Redskins in 1969, to the New Orleans Saints in 1971, and to the Green Bay Packers in 1973.

Sunday's game starts at 1 p.m. at Candlestick Park.

Book me

Having returned from my rural travels, and a visit to New York City, I'll be reading from an equally urban tale, my second novel, *Monkey Suits*, next Wednesday, October 8, 7 p.m., at Magnet, 4122 18th Street, near Castro. Sponsored by A Different Light Bookstore, I'll be reading from my new book, and signing copies of *Monkey Suits* and my first novel, *PINS*. I hope to see you there.

For more info, call (415) 431-0891, or visit www.myrmidude.com. Enjoy previous Sports Complex articles at www.sportscomplex.org. ▼

CLASSIFIEDS

AEF

◀ page 2

Services Planning Council and health department. The funds have helped to cover its projected deficit for this year.

"We have now funded nearly \$440,000 of our original \$650,000 projected shortfall. I am confident that we can expand our program now and raise the additional \$210,000 by year end," said Smith.

The news of the revised eligibility rules also comes on the one-year anniversary of Smith becoming AEF's first executive director. The initial news last December of the revised rules made some question the validity of hiring Smith in the first place.

But by bringing on a full-time director, the agency has been able to save close to \$100,000. Smith made \$97,000 in cuts upon entering his job by taking on many tasks the agency previously out-

sourced, like event planning, mailings, and an agency newsletter. And he negotiated a new lease for the agency, which cut AEF's rent by half, saving nearly \$30,000 a year. Smith was hired at an annual salary of \$90,000.

As the holidays approach, a time when many people make donations to local nonprofit agencies, Smith said he is hopeful the agency can raise the additional funds its needs, and for the first time in three years, not run a deficit.

But he added, "the board is going forward even if we have to dip into our reserves. These are good guidelines for the foreseeable future. The board looks at this on an annual basis anyway."

Clients can call AEF at (415) 558-6999, ext. 1 to verify if they are now eligible for assistance, or can stop by the agency's offices between 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 965 Mission Street, Suite 630. ▼

Shanti

◀ page 4

donations from both individuals and corporations fall off over the last year. While he did not give a dollar amount for how much the agency has lost, Sims said the agency did not meet any of its fundraising goals for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

The agency, he said, receives 43 percent of its budget from government funding and 57 percent from individuals. Since he took the helm of the agency, Sims said he has been evaluating the strengths and challenges at Shanti and said that review led him to propose the restructuring plan.

"Clearly, one of the challenges is finances and fundraising. I believe by creating the new structure we created it will be a more sustainable structure," said Sims. "There wasn't any fat left because the organization has been working on a very thin margin for some years."

Depending on if the agency can increase its revenue flows, Sims said more pay cuts could be possible.

"It is possible managers could

take another month cut in pay," he said. "I don't believe we will need to reduce the size of the organization anymore. I am pretty confident what we have done the last couple weeks is the upper limit of layoffs."

Though that may change if the agency's upcoming fundraisers fall flat of expectations. The first event is Shanti's seventh annual Ride for Life, a motorcycle ride which embarks from San Francisco and ends in the Russian River.

This year's bike ride will depart at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 11 and finish at 1 p.m. at Fife's Resort in Guerneville. Participants are asked to raise pledges and entry in the ride is \$25 per person in advance, \$35 the day of the event.

On Thursday, October 23 Shanti will host "To Russia with Love," its 29th annual awards gala. This year's event is being chaired by the Consul General of Russia, Victor N. Lizun and his wife, Irina. The gala will feature fine caviar, champagne, and iced vodka.

Individual tickets cost \$200 and sponsor packages are available ranging from \$2,000 to \$15,000.

For more information about either event, call (415) 674-4764. ▼

brought my conviction rate up." But Fazio was unimpressed.

"We like to say we're a tolerant city," he said. "But the problem is when people's conduct impinges on preventing you from enjoying your life. The D.A. has to act on it."

Harris said she would seek to improve relations with the SFPD.

"The district attorney should sit down with the police department and be very clear about what charges will or won't be filed. I'll do that immediately," she said.

Just days after the forum, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that Harris had gone over the voluntary spending cap that she had pledged to honor. This week, Hallinan asked the state attorney general to review a complaint he received on the matter. In January, Harris signed a form saying she would abide by the \$211,000 voluntary cap. The *Chronicle* reported that last week, Harris's campaign notified the city Ethics Commission that it had exceeded the spending limit by \$89,000. Hallinan has accepted the spending cap, while Fazio declined, the newspaper reported. Under the law, anyone who "knowingly or willfully" violates any provision of the campaign finance law could be convicted of a misdemeanor and fined up to \$5,000.

Harris's campaign has maintained the oversight was a mistake. ▼

off-ramp, and any solicitation on public transportation or in a parking lot.

Hallinan said his office does prosecute such crimes.

"I prosecute thousands and thousands of cases each year and we're very successful," he said.

Harris said that if elected, she would work with Alameda County officials to set up a task force on the homeless.

"We have people who commute to San Francisco, quite frankly," she said. "We need to recognize and track those people so we can send them back. I would institute modern technology in that office."

Fazio spoke of his "legal triaging" program. Under the program, an assistant district attorney would be at the booking counter when someone is brought in to the jail. Those willing and eligible to participate in various diversion type programs would get out of the criminal justice system, while those left behind "will be prosecuted," he explained.

Regarding his conviction rate, Hallinan said "Sure I have a low conviction rate, there are 3,000 people on diversion. The police department sends all cases to the D.A. without discretion. I have

BAY AREA REPORTER
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0269741-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tasty Curry, 1375-9th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Whitehaven, UI-Hao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/08/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269550-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Literary Tours, 2355 Leavenworth Street #101, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Scott Lettieri. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269608-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Center For The Book, 200 DeLano Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a Non-Profit Corporation signed Kathy Barr, Executive Director. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/03/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268999-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cucci, 80 Canyon Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a individual signed Timothy John O'Neill. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 07, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/07/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269542-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Trenton & Co., 555 De Haro Street #222, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a individual signed Mathias Trent. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 28, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/28/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269597-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mi Lino Yucatan, 401 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jorge A. Gongora. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/02/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269593-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Emilie's Towing, 2230-22nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Emilie Ferreboef and Marie Laure Ferreboef. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 02, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/02/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265088-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Don Quijote Restaurant, 1550 Howard Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Milton Enrique Avila and Hilda Yesenia Duarte. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269756-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Homemarkit, 1326 Cabrillo Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mark Andrew Cecil. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/08/2003.

SEPT. 11, 18, 25, OCT. 2, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269944-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Golden Car, 730 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is con-

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

5640 Environmental Specialist-Recycling Program, Provisional Appointment. Salary: \$55,380 - \$67,314 annually. To develop and implement waste prevention, recycling and composting programs. For complete job announcement go to: senvr.state.ca.gov. Dateline: October 15, 2003

VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsups

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

ASTHMA TASK FORCE -

The purposes of the Task Force is to recommend to the Board of Supervisors legislative action and citywide strategies that would ensure the highest standard of asthma management and prevention services for all residents in the City and County of San Francisco, and to provide general advice and assistance to the Board of Supervisors with regard to funding priorities, legislative action, and city policies for the prevention and management of asthma in the City and County of San Francisco. The following vacant seats are for the unexpired portion of a two year term ending June 30, 2005.

Vacant seat 1, must be a representative of a community-based organization that provides advocacy related to asthma issues in San Francisco (voting member). Vacant seats 11 and 12, must be a representative of Medi-Cal Managed Care Insurers (voting members). Vacant seat 20, must be a representative of the Department of Public Health (voting member). Vacant seat 21, must be an individual who represents property interests (non-voting member). Vacant seat 22, must be an individual who represents tenant interests (non-voting member).

INVITATION TO BID

The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency will accept bids on Contract No. SBH 003-03, South Beach Park & Harbor Improvement Project (Marine Work) October 28, 2003. A California IAI Contractors license is required to bid this contract. Work includes a new floating guest dock north of Pier 40, access ramps, dinghy dock, and repairs to the underside of Pier 40. Estimated cost is \$2,400,000. Bidders may obtain documents upon payment of a \$50 check to San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. Contact Ted Maniatis at (415) 749-2413 for further information.

INVITATION TO BID

The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency will accept bids on Contract No. RPSB 004-03, South Beach Park & Harbor Improvement Project (Building and Site Improvements) November 7, 2003. A California IBI Contractors license is required to bid this contract. Work includes a construction of a 2 story 11,300 square foot harbormaster building, wood and steel framed supported by pile and grade beam foundations; new utilities; landscaping; and site work. Location is adjacent to Pier 40. Estimated cost is \$7,000,000. Bidders may obtain documents upon payment of a \$125 check to "San Francisco Redevelopment Agency." Contact Ted Maniatis at (415) 749-2413 for further information.

STATEMENT FILE 0269891-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Quarter Moon Press, 769 Cole Street #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Clinton Seiter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/12/2003.

SEPT. 18, 25, OCT. 2, 9, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269701-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Fish Company, 1 Ferry Building Suite 31, San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by an individual signed Allen Kuehn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/05/2003.

SEPT. 18, 25, OCT. 2, 9, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269485-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Selinger & Associates Appraisal, 1865 Powell Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Matthew Che Selinger. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/15/2003.

SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270026-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Left Coast Lifelines, 15 Lucerne Street #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94103-5658. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Lu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/18/2003.

SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269934-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Golden Car, 730 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nopakul Outayakul. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/17/2003.

SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003



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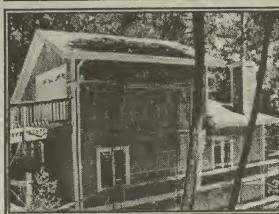
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0269625-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Video City #3274 1590 Franklin Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed by Jermigan - VP/Controller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 14, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/03/2003.

SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270262-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: W. Y. Cheung Co. 2822 Fulton Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yau Sunny W. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 26, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/26/2003.

OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CIV. 03-540953
In the Matter of the Application of Minh Van Nguyen, Patrick Tuan Le, Sophia Phuong Le For change of Name. The application of Minh Van Nguyen, Patrick Tuan Le, Sophia Phuong Le for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Minh Van

Tuan Le, Sophia Phuong Le has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Minh Tich Vu, Patrick Tuan Le, Sophia Phuong Vu. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of December at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270196-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: CDX/DLD J.V. 1595 Fairfax Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a joint venture signed Steven N. Chu/president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 23, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/24/2003.

OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270227-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lilliputian Pictures, 3553 20th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph R. Goldstone. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 25, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/25/2003.

OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270227-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: CM Recruiting, 439 Moraga Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Christina K. Murphy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 25, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/25/2003.

OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

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The following person(s) are doing business as: CM Recruiting, 439 Moraga Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Christina K. Murphy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 25, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/25/2003.

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OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

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OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

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OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270227-00
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OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270227-00
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OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270227-00
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OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

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OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270227-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: CM Recruiting, 439 Moraga Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Christina K. Murphy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 25, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/25/2003.

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OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270227-00
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**LEGAL NOTICES**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540950
In the Matter of the Application of Tana Marietta Chrisman For change of Name. The application of Tana Marietta Chrisman for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Tana Marietta Chrisman has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Montana Marietta Chrisman. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270329-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Bangkok Noodles, 156 Powell Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Somnuk Loui. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003.

OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270327-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: West Portal Shoe Service, 79 West Portal Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed George Bartsikas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 30, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003.

OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

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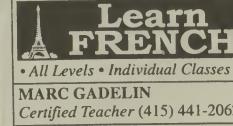
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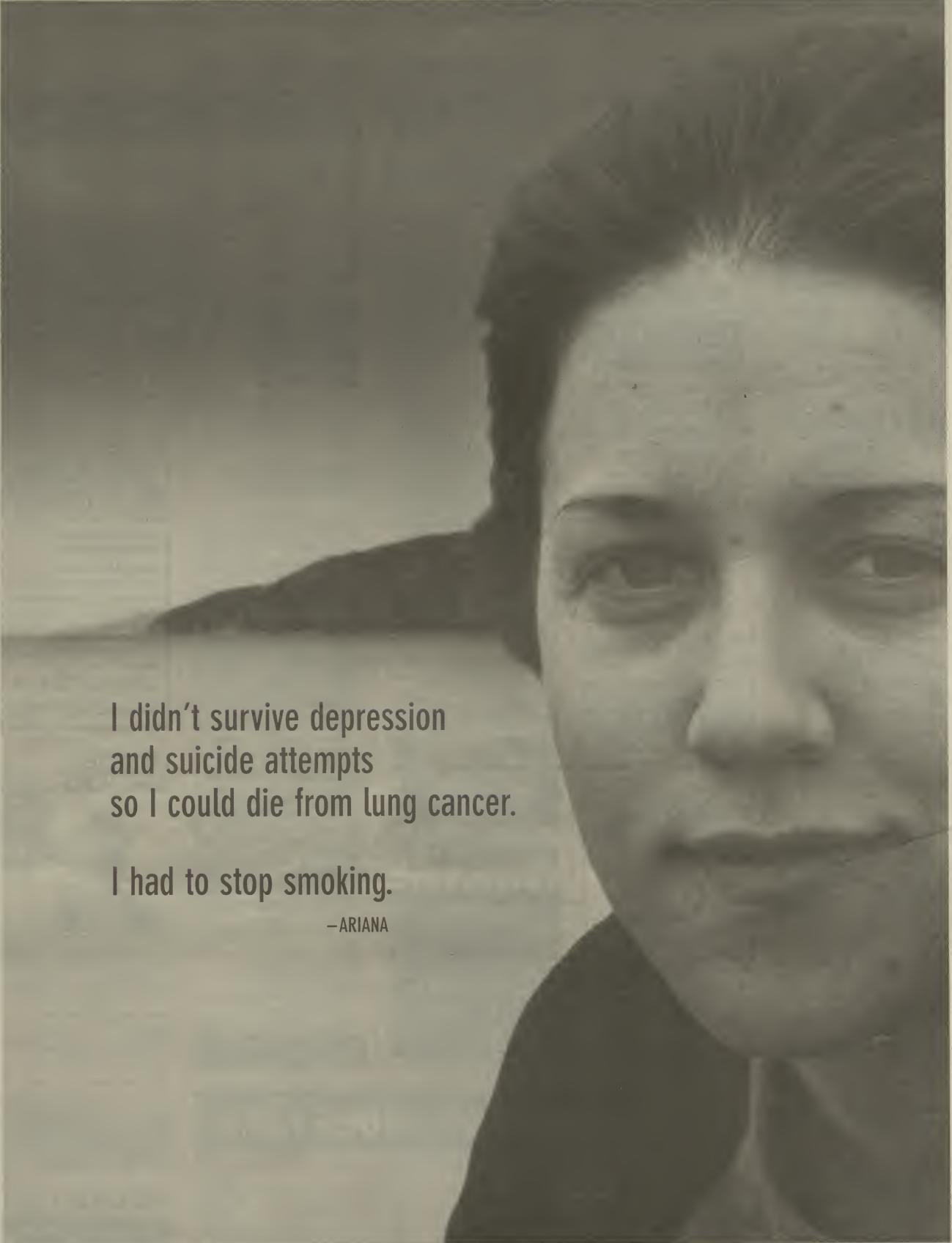
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onscreen, banding at the Eagle Tavern.
pages 40 - 41

Dukakis for President
Olympia, that is, onscreen
in new film *'The Event.'*
page 38



Girls with pearls
And more highlights from
Mill Valley Film Festival.
page 36



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 40 • 2 October 2003

John Kelly becomes Joni Mitchell in Shiny Hot Nights

Lady of the canyon

by John R. Killacky

Obie Award-winning actor-performer-artist, choreographer, dancer, singer, and author John Kelly returns to San Francisco with *Shiny Hot Nights: More Songs of Joni Mitchell* at ODC Theater October 8-12. More than a camp homage, Kelly brilliantly and effortlessly covers Mitchell's songs with his crystalline countertenor voice, singing her less-known material in their original key. His harmonic song partly channeling Mitchell's persona is uncanny, humorous, and haunting.

In Marin, Kelly's Joni Mitchell performance grew into a celeb-filled smash during a recent three-month extended run at the downtown Fox cabaret. The night I was there, Mike Nichols, Diane Sawyer, and Kevin Bacon were jammed into the next booth. Bette Midler, Joel Grey, and Meryl Streep also visited the run. The press was rapturous: "Lovingly devastating" (*New York Times*); "Somewhere between male and female, human



and angel" (*New York magazine*); "Unexpected emotional power" (*Entertainment Weekly*).

Kelly first began performing Joni in 1985 at the first Wigstock. He then created an evening-length cabaret version of *Midnight Paradise*, seen in '94 at Jose's Cabaret in the Castro. SF audiences got a sneak preview of his most recent Joni incarnation at last year's *Shiny Hot Nights* at Yoshi's. That sold out.

the Arts. The theme was "Come to Joni," and Kelly as Joni was the surprise gift of the evening.

Mitchell herself showed up at one of his performances and gave Kelly a standing ovation. When CBS' *This Morning* asked her what she thought of his use of her work, she responded: "I'm honored. She told the *Times*, "I feel like Huck Finn attending his own funeral, or Jimmy Stewart in the movie where the angel walks him back through his own life. I was braced for lampooning, and I

page 42 ►



Personal politics with playwright Saleem

Middle East passion play

by Richard Dodds

With the politics of the Middle East at a high boil, playwright Saleem Azzouqa has been lowering the political heat in *Salam Shalom... A Tale of Passion*. That passion is the love affair that develops between two men, an Israeli and a Palestinian, a story based on the playwright's own experiences.

"The original format had a lot of arguments about politics with the sexual tension mixed in," said Saleem, who uses only his first name professionally. "People wanted to see more of the two men together. I tried to soften the play because the issue is already heavy."

When *Salam Shalom* opens this weekend at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, it will be the seventh production for the play and the seventh time Saleem has co-starred as a closeted Palestinian who falls in love with a gay Israeli with no problems expressing himself.

The first performance of *Salam Shalom* was in 1995, two years after Saleem and his real-life Israeli lover had parted. The play does take dramatic liberties with actual events; Saleem, for example, was already out when he met Yaron Mizrahi at a party where he, Saleem, was performing as a belly dancer.

"But my coming-out scene to my father is almost word for word," Saleem said. "I also got married for one year under family pressure before I came out. So a lot of the characters are reflections of people in my life."

Saleem, officially a citizen of Jordan, was born and reared in Saudi Arabia, though both his parents are Palestinian. He arrived in the United States in 1986, received an MBA from Colorado State, and eventually settled in Los Angeles, where he tried to find work as an actor.

"I'm not a headshot-and-résumé guy. It didn't work for me," he said. "I'd go to an audition for Middle Eastern roles and they'd go, 'You don't look Middle Eastern.' And I'd go for American roles and page 40 ►



It's a dog's life for human pups

Isn't it time to train the man in your life?

by Roberto Friedman

You know it's been a full week of Full Leather in San Francisco when you find yourself sitting down to thumb through a review copy of *Woof! - Perspectives into the Erotic Care & Training of the Human Dog* (Boner Book) and find you just can't put it down.

Owner-handler Master Michael Daniels gets down to the basics of human dog role-play, training, grooming and care. Chapters on gear (collars, muzzles, paws and tails) and such nuts-and-bones as water bowls, cages and chewtoys are methodically explored. Doggy scenarios such as "Vet" and "Dog Show" are lovingly described.

Beyond the realm of sit, stay, roll over and play dead, Master Michael has many years of experience with advanced dog training and has housebroken more than a few puppies. He dedicates his book to his loyal human bowser Jefpup, and his household includes two more man pups, Boy



Chuck and Pup Taber, as well as three actual canines. That's a full kennel right there.

If you ask us, it's too much upkeep to own a pet, much less one who can talk back. Just another mouth to feed, even if it's only dog-food. And if anyone thinks we'd trot behind the beast in the park clutching a plastic bag, he's got another woof coming! More info at www.leatherdog.com.

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Rustic life

Our opera critic was indisposed last week, so Out There attended a performance of *San Francisco Opera's Cavalleria rusticana* and Pagliacci in her stead (don't worry; she'll be back for *Barber*). Now, we know some opera queens who refer to this oft-staged double bill of one-act operas as *Ham 'n' Eggs*, but being big fans of Italian *verismo* opera (and so weary of Germans in black trenchcoats), we ate 'em both up, with relish.

Not even such time-honored staples of warhorse programming escape controversy in the highly opinionated opera community. The first presentations of the Easter procession in the Jean-Pierre Ponnelle-designed *Cav* found a penitent luging a cross down the church steps, surrounded by religious fanatics flagellating themselves bloody and silly. This conceit led to screaming fits between Ponnelle and then-General Director Kurt Herbert Adler before the production's premiere in 1976. The flagellants have since been removed, and more's the pity.

Also, spurned Sicilian damsels Santuzza trudges through the whole melodrama with a pillow stuffed under her blouse to imply that she is pregnant. Though nothing in the libretto (or Mascagni's score) supports this Ponnellism, soprano Andrea

Gruber dutifully put on the poundage for director Vera Lucia Calabria's reconstruction. According to one opera maven, the late diva Leonie Rysanek, when asked to play the part preggies, refused and walked out. Another o.m. sniffed that she was simply not up to the role. We missed the whips.

Wholly Jesus

The very next night, we attended the opening of another musical spectacle, Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic *Jesus Christ Superstar*, at the Orpheum Theatre through October 19. The score for this

1971 rock opera has stood the test of time; unfortunately, the current Best of Broadway production suffers a crisis of vision that it never fully resolves. All of the acolytes are either pumped-up buffsters or look like they've just escaped the cast of *Rent*: okay, you think, so this is *JCS* staged as a contemporary updating for the Age of Arnold. But then, in the "Jesus, can you heal me" number, the chorus has bandages hanging around their scalps like mummies, in the dreariest possible literal interpretation. So which is it?

There's a lot of show-biz sizzle to this *Superstar*. In a failure of imagination, the final chorus is sung by a trio of vamps in red vinyl bustier and fishnets. Must all of musical theatre now be staged à la Bob Fosse? Mary

Magdalene (Natalie Toro) giggled through a verse of "Everything's Alright," possibly because Jesus (Eric Kunze), his back to the audience, was making funny faces at her. JC himself looked more like Charles Manson than a nice Jewish boy from Galilee, throwing the whole culty aspect of the story into high relief.



Thai tennis phenom Paradorn

Poster boy

Slice of Thai life on a postcard from *Our Man in Bangkok*: "Wish you had been here. Last night *Paradorn*, the tennis star who now adorns your bull-board, beat a Scandinavian in a match it would take [BAR porn columnist] John F. Karr to describe fully. Tonight, alas, he lost. But before he did, he played splendidly, took off his shirt between sets (you could see even the cameraman shiver) and, when it was all over, cried into his towel. I so want to soothe him."

Yes, Thai sweat king Paradorn stands down at us regally from our bulletin board as we type. Bare-chested, he scowls, he glistens.

next page ►

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THEATRE

'Thursday's child

Playwright Adam Bock returns to SF

by Richard Dodds

With each of his plays, Adam Bock likes to set up a technical challenge for himself. With *Thursday*, opening this weekend at the Thick House, it was the decision to forego the theatrical staple of the monologue.

"It's got 27 scenes, so it's really fast," Bock said. "I've always wanted to look at how physicality is language, too. Not having monologues makes the whole thing kind of flutter."

A pair of related stories about rejected people drives the action of *Thursday*. There is Pete, hoping to get back with his ex-boyfriend, and Marcie, a former TV star who returns without glory to her hometown.

"Pete is a kind of dopey gay guy who's sad and upset and angry that he doesn't have a boyfriend anymore," Bock said. "He's not Jack on *Will & Grace*."

Even so, Bock said it was his intent to write a comedy. "It's lighter than *Five Flights*," he said of his previous (and well-received) collaboration with director Kent Nicholson and Encore Theatre Company. "In this, I'm writing about the smaller things. I find drama in the minutiae."

The success of *Five Flights* helped open doors when he relocated to New York last year. "I have an agent now with William Morris. Playwrights Horizon gave me \$10,000 for a commission," he said. "They're nice to me there, and it's because of here."

"Here" is San Francisco, where the Canadian settled in 1997, he has said, to get comfortable with being a gay man. With that apparently accomplished, Bock began contemplating a career move to New York, Los Angeles, or London when he fell in love with a New York actor, answering the relocation question.

But Bock, 41, is single again. "It was a little overwhelming," he said. "A new city, a new boyfriend."

While the romance that lured him to New York has waned, Bock feels the professional need to remain for a year or two before returning to SF. "I'm not completely sold on New York, but I'm still



Bock finds drama in minutiae.

production, though the show itself is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Ingmar Bergman's only screen comedy, *Smiles of a Summer Night*, provided the basis for Hugh Wheeler's book and led Sondheim to write his entire score, including the oft-recorded "Send in the Clowns," in three-quarter time.

Charlotte Cornwell, seen as Maria Callas in TheatreWorks' *Master Class*, heads the cast as an aging actress in 1913 Sweden who sets her sights on a newly married old flame during a weekend in the country. Broadway veteran Allen Fitzpatrick plays the unhappy groom tortured by his wife's ongoing commitment to virginity. Lianne Marie Dobbs, a popular Bay Area performer, is playing the teen bride.

A Little Night Music is running through Nov. 2 at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts. Call (650) 903-6000 or go to www.theatreworks.org.

Sexcapades

The Sex Habits of American Women, opening soon at the Magic Theatre, is also about the sexual naivete of one American man in 1950. But that man happens to be a noted psychoanalyst who is preparing a major tome on female sexual needs. What he doesn't know is that his own wife is having an affair with a family friend half her age, and that his unmarried daughter has more interest in the young woman next door than in finding a spouse of the opposite sex.

The Magic Theatre is offering the world premiere of Julie Marie Myatt's play, with the live action interspersed with a contemporary video documentary shot by Amy Glazer on a sexually free mother and the teenage daughter who denounces her promiscuity.

The director is Michael Bigelow Dixon, literary director of Minneapolis' Guthrie Theatre, where *Sex Lives* received a workshop production earlier this year. Myatt's plays have also been seen at Actors Theatre of Louisville, where Dixon had a long run as associate artistic director.

Performances begin Oct. 7 at the Fort Mason Center. For tickets, call 441-8822 or go to www.magictheatre.org. ▶

making contacts, and there are people I want to work with," he said. "But the experience of working on *Thursday* reminds me of why I like San Francisco so much. It's the sense of home."

Even if he doesn't soon return as a resident, Bock will continue to be represented on Bay Area stages. He's talking to Shotgun Players, which presented his *Swimming in the Shallows*, about a new collaboration. And Encore is planning its third Bock production, either *The Typographer's Dream* (which earned a positive if quizzical review in *The New York Times*) or a new play titled *The Thugs*, about an office populated with temps who fear the building is under siege. "It's a little bit of a response to *Iraq*," Bock said.

Encore is also planning to revive *Five Flights* in New York in January as a co-production with the Rattlestick Theatre. "That production," Bock said, "will let me know where I stand in New York."

The world premiere of *Thursday* will continue at Thick House through Nov. 2. Call 821-4849 or go to www.encoretheatreco.org.

Isn't it rich?

Outside of the Kennedy Center, TheatreWorks must be the most Sondheim-friendly theater in the country. Artistic Director Robert Kelley is the fuel behind this passion, and starting Oct. 8, he will direct his eighth Stephen Sondheim musical for the South Bay theater.

A Little Night Music is the new

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

Out There

◀ previous page

And if we squint just right, he winks at us with just the hint of sexual promise.

Writer types

BAR "Sports Complex" columnist Jim Provenzano doffs the singlet for a caterer's tuxedo in his second novel, *Monkey Suits* (iUniverse). The story takes us back to the AIDSies: New York City in the '80s, home to the clashing worlds of the uptown society set and the downtown AIDS activists who took up to serve them. "In September 1988, parts of America felt certain it would never stop raining money, and their President drooled in agreement."

Provenzano's first SF reading from the novel will be on Wed., Oct. 8, 7 p.m. at Magnet SF, 4122

18th St., presented by A Different Light Bookstore. Info at (415) 431-0891 or www.myrmidude.com.

Former BAR "Sapphicitation" columnist Beth Elliott's first novel, *Don't Call It "Virtual"* (Emperor's New Clothes Press), is a satirical lesbian time-travel adventure. Valerie Benziger, lesbian feminist activist and Priestess of the Goddess, concocts a ritual that takes her SF women's circle forward in time, and hopes to return to the present with a cure for AIDS. The future is waiting. Info at www.enpress.com.

Huddle (Haworth Press), a first novel by gay journalist Dan Boyle, follows a team of gay football players as they vie for the West Los Angeles Fag — sorry, that's Flag Football Championship. Boyle writes what he knows: he played in the LA Gay Flag Football League at Hollywood High

School, and was a member of medal-winning football teams at the Gay Games in Vancouver and New York City.

As for straight SF literary celebrity Dave Eggers, we concur with Kirkus' two-word assessment of his bestselling novel *A Heart-breaking Work of Staggering Genius*. "It isn't."

Out of our gourd

Over 100 artists will take part in *Calabash! A Celebration of Gourds, Art and the Garden* on Sunday, Oct. 5, 1-5 p.m. at Food For Thought, 6550 Railroad Ave. in Forestville. A silent auction will showcase gourd artwork, gourd artists will give demos, and the attractions include organic food, wine, and garden tours. The event benefits Food For Thought Sonoma County AIDS Food Bank. Info at (707) 887-1647 or www.calabashARTfest.org. ▶

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They came from Marin

Picks from 2003 Mill Valley Film Festival

by David Lamble

Following, 10 highlights from this year's Mill Valley Film Festival, October 2-12 in various Marin venues.



Vermeer's model in *Girl w/Pearl*.

Girl with a Pearl Earring He was 28 and starting to make the big bucks. He had a patron and a busy household run by the women in his life. About 40 of Johannes Vermeer's paintings still exist. Steven Spielberg would be pretty happy if the same could be said of his oeuvre four centuries from now. "Girl with a Pearl Earring" is one of the most erotically charged of all Vermeer's compositions, and Peter Webber's startling new film puts us in the room where the painter (Colin Firth) takes subtle liberties with his model, Griet (Scarlett Johansson), a girl not yet out of her teens, with instincts both pious and sensual, desperately wants to please and learn from Vermeer while not betraying her sense of herself and her mistress (Vermeer's wife), the earring's owner. Webber gets extraordinary performances from Johansson and Firth, who teases as to whether her Vermeer is the artist as adulterer or pussywhipped patriarch.

Filmmaker Webber has as many layers in his perfectly-lensed drama (cinematographer Eduardo Serra shoots every frame like a Dutch Master) as Vermeer produced on his canvas. Is *Girl* an erotically charged argument on the intercourse between art, commerce and the human soul, or a discrete exercise in high-minded pornography? As young Griet frets over her role in Vermeer's humiliation of his wife, an old dawager whispers, "Don't be upset. They're just pictures made for money. They mean nothing." (Rafael, 10/4; Sequoia, 10/9)

The Barbarian Invasions Quebec veteran Denys Arcand has great fun at the expense of Canada's beleaguered national health care system as he portrays the last days of a Dionysian college professor whose "body of work" consists mostly of young women he has bedded. Among Remy's regrets are soured relations with his London-based stockbroker son. The arc of their relationship lies at the core of this story. The long-awaited sequel to Arcand's *Decline of the American Empire* revisits its



Denys Arcand's *Barbarian Invasions* revisits characters from his *Decline*.

characters, including a gay couple in a longterm relationship. (Rafael & Sequoia, closing night, 10/12)

The Station Agent In one of the best of this year's batch of Sundance films, director Tom McCarthy combines an impish sense of humor with a heartfelt story of three misfits who find a life-raft in friendship around an abandoned New Jersey railroad station. The casting is pitch-perfect: Finbar (Peter Dinklage) is an ordinary, put-upon guy who just wants to read and eat in peace. Dinklage has the world's most judgmental eyebrows, a virtual Richter scale of life's absurdities. That Finbar is a dwarf becomes increasingly irrelevant as he assumes the role of big brother to a volatile hot-dog vendor (Bobby Cannavale channelling Adam Sandler) and a grief-stricken middle-aged painter (the versatile Patricia Clarkson). (Sequoia, opening night, 10/2)

that ratchet the emotional stakes of the film up beyond the comfort zone. (Sequoia, 10/3, 4)



Spanish culture in *Carnage*.

Carnage Powerful evidence of bullfighting's claim on the culture of Spain. When a handsome



The story of discredited journalist Stephen Glass is told in *Shattered Glass*.

Shattered Glass This emotionally taut docudrama might be called the Anti-Christ version of *All the President's Men*. A handsome but emotionally slippery young man, Stephen Glass (Hayden Christensen), infiltrates the newsroom of a small Washington-based journal of opinion. Soon his very pop articles are creating a buzz, and a journal that once regarded itself as "the in-flight magazine on Air Force One" briefly veers towards being a kind of *Rolling Stone* for policy wonks.

Disaster hits when it becomes clear that as many as 27 of Glass' 41 articles written for *The New Republic* were based on misleading or totally fabricated reporting. The highlight of the film is the tense showdown between Glass and the editor (Peter Sarsgaard) who tries desperately to save his magazine's reputation in the cut-throat world of Washington think tanks. First-time writer/director Billy Ray elicits performances from both leads

young matador is gored in the bullring, filmmaker Delphine Gleize obsessively follows the chain of circumstances surrounding the disposing of the dead animal's body parts, and the peculiar Zeitgeist that connects this symbolic act with the practical need to obtain a new liver for the comatose matador. Slowly paced, *Carnage* will pay off for those willing to stick their hands into the entrails of a culture that is as bloody-minded as our own, in oddly different ways. (Sequoia, 10/4; Rafael, 10/8)

Prisoner of Paradise In January 1933, the late Billy Wilder was dining at a German ski resort when he heard that President von Hindenberg had named Adolf Hitler as Chancellor. Turning to a female friend, Wilder said, "I think it's time to leave." When she protested that she wanted to finish her coffee, Wilder explained he

page 49 ►

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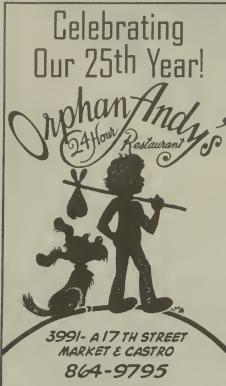
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An Olympian 'Event'

Actress Olympia Dukakis lets loose

by Brandon Judell

Olympia Dukakis, as you've never imagined her, was chatting away with fans in Manhattan's Broadway Screening Room the other day: her straight blonde tresses hitting her shoulders, her dress slinky black, and her shoes open-toed. The Oscar-winning actress was the very definition of svelte.

So how come the first image of Olympia to appear in our heads is as Rose Castorini, Cher's mom in *Moonstruck* (1987)? And why isn't she getting those slightly older siren parts? When I got her alone, I asked her that, point-blank.

"First of all," Olympia purred forcefully, "everyone thinks I am older than I am because of what I look like mostly on the screen, and those are the parts I get. So people ask, 'Why do you take those parts?' Why do I take those parts? They're good parts. They pay me."

Those good parts have often

included pro-gay stances. She was the mother of a pre-op transsexual in *Jeffrey* (1995), and she herself became everyone's favorite post-op transsexual, Anna Madrigal, in the TV adaptations of *Tales of the City* (1993); *More Tales of the City* (1998); *Further Tales of the City* (2001); and next year, she resuscitates the character yet again for *Babycakes*.

Olympia also raises money to combat AIDS with such organizations as Broadway Bares, and she's always willing to speak out for gay rights.

"And I will continue to," she avows. "Why? First of all, I have a lot of friends that I've loved deeply and had wonderful times with, and a number of them are gone. But I don't know if that's why." She hesitates for a second. "I really care about people, supporting people who are getting a lot of flak about being different. I really feel that our intolerance of differences is a cancer here in this country. Whether we can't tolerate some-

body's skin, someone's sexuality, someone's religion, someone's political point of view, that really troubles me. So when I get an opportunity to do something about it, to lend my name to it, I do it.

"Listen!" she adds. "I can't say that it's something I get up every day and think about. I don't. Mostly I think about my work and my family. But I find that on a very personal level, and on a political level, and a national or social or whatever-you-will level, this is one of the hardest things for us as a country to dialogue about. The intolerance is staggering. Sometimes it's really painful to observe and to hear about."

Buzz alert

In Thom Fitzgerald's *The Event*, Olympia has given yet another pro-gay performance, which is already eliciting an Oscar buzz according to *The New York Times*. As Lila, she plays a supportive New York mom whose gay son Matt (Don McKellar) has been



Dukakis (left) stars in *The Event*.

living contentedly, more or less, with AIDS for over seven years. But when his drug cocktails stop working and his condition worsens, he decides to throw a suicide party for himself — and what a party it is!

Lila's final bedroom scene with Matt is a five-hanky moment: honest, devastating and simultaneously uplifting. But this was a scene that Olympia knew before she read the screenplay.

"Oh, I knew people did that before the film," she admits. "In this particular part, it was really clear to me that this woman did not live with contradictions about [helping him commit suicide]. It was real clear to her. She loved her son, and if this is what he wanted, that's what she would do. She didn't feel the need to demonstrate emotion; she just felt the need to do for her son. That's what it seemed to me."

"You know, the shoot was a difficult one," Olympia continues. "This was the first film to shoot in lower Manhattan after 9/11. So people were fabulous. People were very glad to see us."

But what about the drag queens on the set? After playing Anna Madrigal for so long, did she offer them any hints?

"Oh, no! Are you kidding?" Olympia laughs. "Don't you dare give them any advice. They know more about makeup and hair and creating beauty than I'll ever know. They're amazing."

As is Olympia, whose new book is entitled *Ask Me Again Tomorrow: A Life in Progress*. And since she was in such a good mood, she shared some items with us that were not in the text. For instance, *Moonstruck* is being made into a musical, and "by the way, Nicolas Cage didn't have a happy time doing that film."

But what about when she was in *Lilith* (1964), did she get it on with the lead? "No, I never had an affair with Warren Beatty," she laughs. "My book is not so much a kiss-and-tell. It's an effort to define myself."

What about Richard Chamberlain, when she guested on *Dr. Kildare* in 1962? "He didn't make a pass at me, and I had no idea he was gay. It was my first television show, and I was involved in doing it and trying to deal with that very mean man, Raymond Massey."

As for fond memories of San Francisco? "Are you kidding?" she gushes. "I'm going back. I'm going back this spring to be in a play at ACT called *The Mother*. Maxim Gorky. It's a remake of a play he wrote. I'm really excited." So are we. ▼

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Diapers, back-stabbing, a possible dyke

John Sayles' 'Casa de los Babys' has a housewarming party

by Brandon Judell

Years ago, the solidly muscular director/writer John Sayles was awarded the John D. MacArthur Award for being a genius in his chosen field, cinema. Fans of *Eight Men Out*, *Sunshine State*, *Men with Guns*, *Matewan*, and 1982's lesbian classic *Lianna* can all applaud that rightful honor.

Now Sayles has completed his 14th film, *Casa de los Babys*. Six women in an unnamed South-of-the-Border country are lodged in a hotel run by acerbic, pitiless Señora Munoz (Rita Moreno). Each desperate American is trying to adopt an infant to bring back to the States. Each is a mess, or, as one waiter notes, "They want to be mothers, and they can't even take care of themselves."

But the stars playing these fragile gals certainly can. Just imagine the cast of *The Women* fighting their biological clocks. The estimable troupe includes Mary Steenburgen, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Daryl Hannah, Marcia Gay Harden, Susan Lynch, and Lili Taylor as the possibly lesbian, bitchy, Jewish, unmarried, New York-based gal working in the publishing field.

So, is Lili's Leslie that way? The other gals argue the possibility back and forth. One even admiringly notes: "If she is a lesbian, she won't have to worry. They have it all organized." Motherhood, that is.

To find out the truth on the matter, I sat down with Sayles, Taylor and Harden in a Manhattan hotel, one at a time, to chat about Leslie, *Casa*, and her "gay" past.

Lili, best known now for her straight role on *Six Feet Under*, has played gay before. *Gaudi Afternoon* (2001), *Julie Johnson* (2001), *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle* (1994), and *I Shot Andy Warhol* (1996) are her most overt takes, winning Taylor a cult queer following. Is she aware of her same-sex fan base?

"Sometimes, yeah," the petite actress admits, smiling. "Sometimes I realize it, like at the Berlin Film Festival. At the Teddy Award ceremony. There I was with all these great gays and lesbians, and that's when I was like, 'Oh, I think I've done some movies that they like.' But I try not to think about myself too much. Do you know what I mean? I try not to read stuff about what I've done so I don't get to be a big deal to myself. Do you know what I'm saying?"

I nod, and note how toned her arms are.

"I'm blessed," Lili admits. "I'm blessed with low body-fat. Don't kill me. I've got low body-fat, and I got some muscles. They come in handy when you gotta move furniture by yourself, so I have no problem with this."

As for her character Leslie being queer?

"I don't think so," Taylor explains. "Her relationships haven't been very positive, and that's where the ambiguity is coming from, as opposed to her being bisexual."

Just do it

Sayles is no more certain, and he wrote the screenplay. "You know, I don't know. That was something I didn't put in her character's bio," he says. "I think



Sayles brings up a gay dialogue.

she's not, as far as the way Lili was playing her. I think Lili decided Leslie is somebody who's just had it with men, really has decided they're wasting her time. Mr. Right isn't going to come along. I want to have a kid. I don't want to be 40 when I have one. I'm going to do it now, and then whenever I do meet, they will have to deal with that."

Sayles does admit that he brought up the gay dialogue to make people aware of gay adoption, and to show how his characters would react to having a lesbian among themselves.

"The women probably have a range of caring and not caring, like the general population," Sayles explains. "I just wanted the audience to have the same reaction as the characters do, which is a moment of wondering if it makes a difference at all."

As for his groundbreaking lesbian classic, any memories?

Sayles does have memories: "When we made *Lianna*, which was about a woman who realizes she's gay and loses her children for a while, the people who had the most trouble with it were young married women with children. They just could not deal with the idea that you would ever jeopardize your children's every moment of happiness for something about yourself. These were American women of a certain class."

"Women whose kids were 12 or older didn't have that problem," he laughs. "Maybe they'd experienced a divorce or something like that: 'Oh, yeah, I can see someone doing that.'"

Abhor her

Someone everyone will adore disliking is Oscar winner Marcia Gay Harden's racist, homophobic, kleptomaniac Nan.

Harden, lovely vision enhanced by a pair of diamond earrings she's borrowed for the day, notes gleefully how she loves acting. "I'm going to work until I'm 80 or 90. Yes, I'll continue to work when I'm an old lady. Thank God for push-up bras."

As for Sayles: "John's films are really, really personal. He has a personal rhythm in them. Even in terms of the cuts. You have to listen, and you have to be interested in the characters and attach yourselves. Also, his pacing is different. He's not a snap-snap-crackle-pop-pace person. He allows you into the life and breath of the characters, and if a person can't allow themselves to relax enough to go there, it can be tough."

"You know, John would be great to go on a hike with," she adds. "You know what I mean? Him leading the hike. Well, he has the shorts for it anyway, we all know. He wears the same khaki shorts every day. He's like Thoreau."

Not sure where Marcia is heading, I ask her about her role in the off-the-wall *Gaudi Afternoon*, which is now on DVD.

Changing her voice to a very sultry, breathy one and batting her eyes, she replies: "That character was a transsexual man, a gay man changed into a woman. It was such a fabulous character. It was so out there, I did a lot of study for it. I was in Toronto, and they have this institute there where they do the sex changes. I met a woman who had been through it, and everything she said was very modulated. It was a lot of work. You began to understand not just the psyche but the physicality of it all. It was really interesting, and really fun. A blast."

A blast is also a way to describe her Nan, the most enjoyable person to hate gay in the cinema in quite a while. Equally merry is the *Casa de los Babys* soundtrack. With music by Ruben Blades, Los Panchos, Los Zafrios and even the great Rita Moreno, this CD will do for your sex life what *Casa de los Babys* does for your mind. Stimulate it. ▶

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Marcia Gay Harden is great to hate as racist, homophobic Nan.

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The Tao of ing

SF's mighty roots-rock band at the Eagle

by Mark Mardon

I don't remember which song lead ing vocalist Sean Mylett was belting out at the Eagle Tavern last Thursday (my 50th birthday!) when I realized he was super hot. He's beefy, a bit bearish, no spring chicken, but definitely still influenced by punk, clearly a seasoned musician at the height of his creative powers, and dynamite to watch, his head rolling around on his broad shoulders as though it were a tetherball, batted back and forth by each burst of Mylett's explosive delivery. All of which turned me on, plus the beers helped.

Now, I know I'm supposed to write about the music and not myself, but hey, it was my birthday, so I invited a bunch of friends along to hear the band, and several of them even stayed around late enough to hear ing play after two other bands. My coterie of friends is small but fierce. They totally rock. So there we were hanging out at the bar, digging ing at the top of their form as they celebrate the release of their new album *Stagger and Bellicence* (Heyday Records), when my famous photographer friend Mike Light (*Ranch, Full Moon, 100 Suns*), who's more than a

decade younger than me, leaned back on his stool, nearly plopping himself in my lap, to advise me that what makes Mylett so hot is his "vulnerability."

Ah, the legendary gentleness of bears. Mike hit it right on. Here's this "manly man," Mylett, rocking out as furiously as any of his rock forebears, and even in the midst of the band's rowdiest, kick-ass songs, you could sense the guy's open, loving heart, with maybe some yearning tossed in.

I'll get to the songs in a moment — all were perfectly brilliant, and vice versa — but everything has a context, and in this case ing — consisting of Mylett on vocals and guitars, Mark Smotroff on lead guitars and backing vocals, Ty Gerhardt on electric bass, and Liam Hart on drums — was playing to the usual unusual Thursday night Eagle Tavern crowd at Folsom Street Fair time, plus moi and friends, and if you've hung at the Eagle at all, you know how unusual I mean: there were the Eagle regulars, perched on their stools as though they'd been there since Gold Rush days, alternately watching the band, the crowd, and the dick images on the video screens overhead; the rock 'n' roll groupies, who flock to the bar on Thursday nights to hear great

bands in a friendly pub setting; the leather crowd whooping it up on the patio, with Leather Masters offering public spankings to raise funds for charity, and an endless line of guys eagerly offering their bare bottoms for a bruising; the bartenders pouring drinks efficiently, accustomed to the fast pace, always keeping their calm; Sister Kitty Catalyst working the crowd, running around in her freaky habit, promoting "Healthy Penis" syphilis testing, as someone in a dick costume traipsed among the leathermen as though in Disneyland; transman Fudgie Frotte, out of drag, flitting through the room, few recognizing him immediately because he wasn't flashing pecs or flaunting a dildo; Larry-bob of *Holy Titclamps* fame studiously taking notes as the hot, punk, warm-up band The Ex Boyfriends played; Jon Ginoli of Pansy Division just hanging out, taking it all in; and goodness knows who all else, all rounded out by my little gang of writers, yogis, potheads, artists, and whatnot, temporarily caught up in the thrill of it all.

Pop appeal

This completely unpretentious bar, filled with oddities yet solidly down to earth, was precisely where I wanted to be on my 50th, especially to hear ing. In the mold of R.E.M., ing is a band with a tight, driving sound perfect for listening to while flying in a convertible across the open road, or live in a dive bar in Athens, Georgia, or in a big stadium in Chicago, LA or Amsterdam; it's got enormous pop appeal, fronted by a singer whose distinctive, often plaintive voice draws you in, moves you in and out of emotions, and raises goosebumps on your skin, especially when Mylett hits his pure, sweet falsettos. The band is snappy but not gimmicky, with song lyrics that are true poetry, exploring universal themes made personal and touching through a combination of heartfelt delivery, enough obscurity in meanings to keep you pondering their intent, and that passionate, vulnerable delivery of Mylett's, which absolutely soars on the new album's sure-fire hit single, "Not Dead, Not Dying," a powerful song that bounces back and forth between despair and hope, with



(Top to bottom:) Liam Hart, Sean Mylett, Ty Gerhardt, Mark Smotroff

the refrain: "Not dead, not dying/ But not for trying! There's no denying/ And I'm tired of lying (lying to myself)." You just can't squeeze more emotion out of a phrase than Mylett does. He makes you feel his pain.

ing is tight, which means all its parts work in tandem, in this case

to perfection. Rock journalists and fans alike will have mighty pleasure poking through the lyrics, probing the lives of these musicians. A great band has been reborn in San Francisco. ▼

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Saleem

◀ Arts cover

they'd say, 'But you have an accent.' That's one of the reasons I started writing, so I could act."

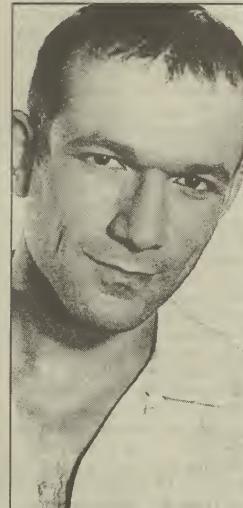
Saleem, 42, says he hasn't published any of his plays because he likes to keep them loose. "I believe a writer's work should always be a work in progress," he said. "Besides, I could pull off playing a graduate student eight years ago, but I couldn't do that now. So now he is a visiting professor."

San Francisco director Mike Ward also suggested some changes that Saleem was happy to incorporate into the play for the NCTC production. Not that there can't be flares of conflict when an actor is also the playwright.

"I have my own standards, and that's why I sometimes go through a lot of friction," Saleem said. "Whether I like it or not, I'm always like a watchdog because I want to make sure the authenticity of the play is there."

He had hoped *Salam Shalom* would bring him to San Francisco several years ago. "Ed Decker [NCTC's artistic director] said the time was not right, and I also gave it to Theatre Rhinoceros, and they said the play was not gay enough for them. I mean, the play is about a gay relationship, but it's not only about that. I've heard people say that it's the first time they've seen Palestinians and Israelis act like human beings with emotions."

Saleem followed up *Salam Shalom* with two more autobiographical plays that he is now consolidating into one. "The new one is called *The American in Me*, no pun intended. It's about the personal revelations of an Arab Muslim gay immigrant who comes to



Saleem's life is a work in progress.

America to seek a new life."

Part of that new life, of course, was coming out and discovering love. The lover whom Saleem writes about in *Salam Shalom* returned to Israel after their split, and while he knows about the play, he has never seen it.

"That would scare the shit out of me," Saleem said. "But every time I put on the play I send him a postcard saying, maybe we split, but look, something good came of it." ▼

Salam Shalom... A Tale of Passion will run at New Conservatory Theatre Center through Oct. 26. Tickets are \$18-\$38. Call 861-8972 or go to www.nctcsf.org.

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FILM

Rockers with hearts

'Prey for Rock 'n' Roll' & 'School of Rock'

by David Lamble

Rock musicals go in and out of vogue, but currently you can enjoy a really good one from the makers of the last good one, Alex Steyermark and Steven Trask of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

Gina Gershon has already launched a cult or two. In *Bound*, the Wachowski Brothers' violent lezzies-on-the-lam fantasy, Gershon and Jennifer Tilly scheme to deprive a gangster of a suitcase stuffed with \$2 million. In *Showgirls*, Paul Verhoeven's widely panned ode to Las Vegas lapdancers, Gershon managed to survive with her dignity and dyke icon status intact. Now Gershon has pulled off the equally remarkable feat of fronting an all-girl rock movie. *Prey for Rock 'n' Roll* is the story of four women musicians who took a bit too seriously Neil Young's advice, "It's better to burn out than to rust."

Gershon's Jacki is the hard-bitten, foul-mouthed lead singer/writer of Clamandy, a chick punk band that has played the LA club scene for more than a decade without ever sniffing success or bringing home a decent night's pay. Jacki once promised herself that she would quit this circus if she hadn't made it by the time she turned 40. Now, as the dreaded birthday approaches, Jacki takes a very hard look in the mirror. "Tonight, we made \$13.50 each, not even enough to support my eyeliner habit. I'm a 40-year-old woman chasing a teenage dream."

Prey for Rock 'n' Roll does have a dream cast: besides Gershon, Drea De Matteo (*The Sopranos*) plays the perpetually stoned bassist Tracy, whose boyfriend from Hell steals from her wallet when he isn't acting out rape fantasies on her body; and Lori Petty (*Relax... It's Just Sex*) does a plucky turn as lead guitarist Faith, who supports her band habit by giving music lessons to valley-girl wannabes.

The film is based on the adventures of rock artist Cheri Lovedog, whose band Lovedog spent the '80s opening for groups like Jane's Addiction, Hole and L7 in small, gin-soaked clubs along the Sunset Strip. Not surprisingly, the music gets to star: a dozen of Lovedog's songs are given pulsating live performances for the screen by a



Gina Gershon as Jacki, lead singer for chick punk band Clamandy.

band featuring Gershon, Sara Lee, Stephen Trask and Lovedog herself on guitar. A jokey version of "Hooked on a Feeling" is both a defiant thumb in the eye of cover bands and good fun.

The sex is mostly bad sex, for the characters that is but entertaining to watch. Gershon has a rip-snorting girl-on-girl scene with Shakara Ledard that is coitus interrupted by a phone call. The scene manages to sizzle even without the technical advice that Susie Bright supplied on *Bound*.

Equally authentic but more depressing are the scenes that point out how much rock remains a male club. The girl-on-boy scenes are also believably dark: Tracy's mess of a bad boy gets his just dessert in a sequence that may shock and amuse. Jacki is given her own fantasy of a good boy (a character named Animal, fresh out of the state pen for killing his step-father while the latter was raping his sister). In real life, the bad boy and the good bad boy would most likely be the same guy, but even rock 'n' roll has to have some myths to live by. Opens Friday.

Samurai substitute

Jack Black has spent a short if joyous career reviving the physical screen antics of the late John Goodman. In his latest comedy, *School of Rock* (written by and costarring openly gay writer Mike White), Black impersonates Dewey Finn, a substitute teacher at a snooty private elementary

school who sets his own curriculum. Dewey, in effect, takes a class of bright fifth-graders hostage for a semester by promising something better than candy: total freedom to rehearse for a rock band that has a chance to win a local battle of the bands.

Black, whose eyebrows alone can entertain more fully than the entire repertoire of body parts from lesser performers, here demonstrates what a really funny actor can do working with a director (Richard Linklater, whose *Dazed and Confused* was the best youth comedy of the '90s) who understands kids and knows when less is more.

An illustration of the Black attack comes in the scene where Dewey meets the class for the first time. "I'm hungover. Anybody know what that means?"

"You're drunk?"

"No. It means I was drunk yesterday."

Dewey never backs down, but subtly the character grows, and by the end he's actually become a good teacher.

School of Rock really rocks when it's just Dewey and the kids. Opportunities to reach even greater comic heights were squandered in the set-up story for the film. But since we live with the knowledge that there will be no sequels to *Animal House*, *The Blues Brothers* or *Samurai Delicatessen*, *School of Rock* is a rather nice consolation prize. Opens Friday. ▼



School of Rock really rocks when it's just Dewey (Jack Black) and the kids at a snooty private elementary school.

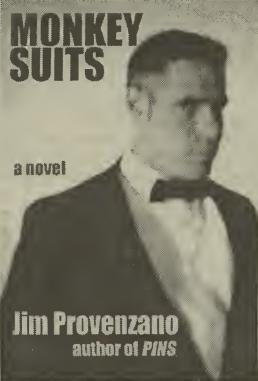


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Teasing with Thielemann

'A Hero's Life,' a fantasy from 'Frau' on disc

by Tim Pfaff

While the wait continues for an opera recording by one of today's best opera conductors, Christian Thielemann (his DVD of Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* is all we have so far), his company, DG, keeps tantalizing us with Thielemann CDs that let opera show ankle but little more before they ring down the curtain. Its latest, of Richard Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben* and his rarely heard Symphonic Fantasy from *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, veritably defines tease.

The blandishments of Bangkok's opera season notwithstanding (this year, two Hungarian State Opera performances each of *Turandot* and *Tosca*, a tawdry week that at least was not marketed as a Puccini Festival), I do occasionally feel an eastward tilt. The two productions that came closest to getting me back on George Bush's turf last year both hailed from Bush's European axis of evil: SF Opera's *Saint François d'Assise* (modern French Catholic music!) and the Met's new production of *Frau* (Nazi music featuring the plaintive voices of un-

born children!)

The latter had Thielemann in the pit, and I hoped that his romp through the *Symphonische Fantasie aus Die Frau ohne Schatten*, Strauss' 1947 medley of tunes from what an increasing number of people regard as his greatest opera, would be my consolation prize for missing (deliberately, in the end) both. But the most I can say about it, and its bigger-boned partner on this live recording with the Vienna Philharmonic, is that I'm glad to have heard them. No other living conductor has as complete a feel for Strauss as does Thielemann, and it's hard not to drool listening to music-making as sensuous yet pell-mell as this. So I drooled, and relished my time with music that did not set out to (and didn't) improve me.

Thielemann comments that he regrets that the composer didn't throw more of the Act II scene-change music into this already overripe Fantasy, but I wager that what most *Frau* fanatics will miss more is the imperial couple, who are — there is no other way to say it — overshadowed by their humbler, earthly counterparts. The major themes associated with the Empress, and her big scene, make

it into the piece, but in a way that subordinates them to the music for Barak and his wife, which virtually induces a sing-along.

There's something eerily right about that, or at least something that fits with my own experience of living with the work. It appears that, in the three decades that passed between Strauss' composition of this opera and his return to its music in the Symphonic Fantasy, it was the earthly couple's more emotionally wrenching music that drew him more than the ecstatic, otherworldly strains of the Emperor and Empress. In any case, the later work is grounded in the torn-up then re-ignited love music of the earthly couple, the emotional genuineness of which keeps the piece from being a mere pastiche.

Immodest proposal

I always wish I'd brought a better book when I begin the journey through one of Strauss' tone poems. Calling his 1898 musical autobiography *A Hero's Life* was consistent with his self-view, and, until Thielemann's reading, *Ein Heldenleben* has always been a piece whose utter, shameless immodesty made me cringe and

vaguely wish I were anywhere else. Sagely, Thielemann sees that the only way to bring off a piece as inflated as this is to "go for it," and he wrings playing out of this pre-eminent Strauss orchestra that leaves blood in the aisles and a variety of other body fluids sprayed from floor to ceiling.

It's an article of faith in the work's reception history that its thematic material is glib and almost self-defeatingly accomplished, and that the true grit is in the orchestration. In his usual, uncanny way, Thielemann exposes the brilliance of the writing with an opening up of its dense textures such that every single written note is clearly audible and, in best Teutonic style, in its proper place. But more impressive is that he gives the piece its requisite torque, such that it pursues its well-known course with new inevitability.

The playing, in short, is simply staggering, and sufficiently diverting that I stopped thinking about alternative entertainments. The movement that has managed to alienate even some of the work's strongest advocates, "The Hero's Battlefield," gains in dignity when executed as unapologetically as



Thielemann has a feel for Strauss.

Thielemann and the VPO musicians do. What's truly startling is that, five minutes into the finale (the equally immmodestly entitled "The Hero's Retreat from the World and Fulfillment"), the piece starts feeling, well, real. This most extroverted of scores turns inward, Rainer Honeck's solo violin begins soaring above it all, and, presto-change-o, it's life and transfiguration. It's stirring, and, with Thielemann wielding the baton, if there's a drop of German blood in you anywhere, you're likely to start blubbering. Then, *Gott sei Dank*, it's over. ▼

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Singer-songwriting legend Joni Mitchell backstage with John Kelly: 'I didn't expect to be so touched.'

John Kelly

◀ Arts cover

didn't expect to be so touched. I cried in two places." Backstage, she told Kelly that his performance was very strange for her, but she was so impressed by his ability to "transcend the material at hand."

Crack career

For over a decade, Kelly has crafted a career spanning avant-garde, Broadway, and East Village aesthetics. He describes his career as "in the cracks between theater and dance. I am searching for my own domain." Recent performances in the Bay Area featured him acting in John Cage's *Marcel Duchamp, James Joyce, Eric Satie*:

An Alphabet for Cal Performances in Berkeley.

Kelly is most renowned for portrayals of Dagmar Onassis, Mona Lisa, Egon Schiele, Antonin Artaud, Orpheus, and the transvestite trapeze artist Barbette, performed in an array of venues from the Pyramid Club to Carnegie Hall. Of these, he says, "I went on to find all sorts of characters that transcend gender: crossover male characters like Narcissus and Sain Sebastian, the 18th-century castrato in his powdered wigs and stockings, the male trapeze artist who wore a dress, the mime who was pure soul and gesture."

His Joni is the one persona that continues to evolve throughout his career. "As a kid growing up in Jersey City, I would put on my

headphones and be swept into Joni's world," he said. "Hers is a world rich with travel, emotion, and innuendo. Her songs have the power to transport a lonely individual into another world. She seems part intellectual, part cowgirl, part oracle. Her music is powerful, compelling, even noble. It is not about diva worship, it's about hearing the sounds of someone's soul."

Shiny Hot Nights: More Songs of Joni Mitchell will include such classics as "Woodstock," "The Last Time I Saw Richard," "A Case of You," "For the Roses," "Night Ride Home," and "Slouching Towards Bethlehem." Performances run October 8-12 at ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. Tickets (\$20): call (415) 863-9834. ▼

MUSIC

Wind and strings meld together

Takács and Stoltzman in Berkeley on Sun.

by Jason Serinus

The single most moving chamber-music experience of my life occurred in November 1997, when I sat second-row center for the Takács String Quartet's Berkeley performance of Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* Quartet. The unanimity of phrasing, the perfectly timed surges of emotion, and the sheer beauty of tone were riveting.

At the work's conclusion, I felt as though I had undergone a profound emotional cleansing. Nor was I alone. Tears were streaming down the face of the woman seated next to me, and the entire Cal Performances audience was on its feet cheering.

An afternoon almost as awesome occurred one month later, when I sat in the first row directly in front of clarinetist Richard Stoltzman. It took all of five seconds to realize that the man's reputation derives as much from his radiant, shining tone and impeccable technique as from the sheer love of music-making that can be felt in his every note.

This Sunday afternoon, Cal Performances unites Takács and Stoltzman in a recital that includes Bartók's String Quartet No. 3, Mendelssohn's String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13; and Brahms' Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Op. 115. Although audience demand has shifted the performance from the modest scale of Hertz Hall to the 2,400-seat concrete shell known as Zellerbach Auditorium, the strengths of artists and repertoire have a good chance of transcending acoustic limitations.

Part of the Takács' ability to reach deeply into the heart of a composition stems from the manner in which first violinist Edward Dusinberre plays lightly on the string, creating a mesmerizing line of finely spun, silken tone. Another derives from how the players constantly check in with each other, sensing clues that enable them to play as one. After 20 years in residency at the University of Colorado, and 15 years teaching and performing as Quartet-in-Residence at the Barbican Centre



Takács String Quartet, able to reach deeply into the heart of a composition.

and the Guildhall School of Music in London, these men have come to know each other's musical sensibilities inside out.

First wind

Stoltzman has been soloist with more than 100 orchestras and appeared on nearly 50 recordings. He gave the first clarinet recitals in the histories of both the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall, and in 1986 became the first wind-player to be awarded the Avery Fisher Prize. His recording of Brahms' autumnal Quintet for Clarinet and Strings with the Tokyo String Quartet was released by BMG in 1995.

When asked about his upcoming performance, Stoltzman recalled, "I first heard the Brahms Clarinet Quintet in the summer of 1964 with my soon-to-be teacher, Keith Wilson. Gradually, I became aware of a new and unique sonority which I had never before experienced. It was the sublime sound of five equal voices — not a virtuoso showcase for clarinet solo and string quartet, but a masterpiece of seeming-

ly effortless counterpoint in the service of heartbreaking eloquence. At that moment, I knew I had something I could live for, and I prayed I would be fortunate enough to play this great work once before I died."

"Little did I know that I would go on to perform the piece hundreds of times around the world, record it twice with the Cleveland and Tokyo Quartets, and make laser discs with the Artemis quartet in Vienna's Mozart-Saal."

Listening to Stoltzman's recording with the Tokyo, one immediately hears his understanding of Brahms' autumnal sublimity when his clarinet, devoid of vibrato, enters with a pale whisper of sound. Given the excellence of the Takács, this live performance should prove even more rewarding. ▼

The Takács String Quartet and Richard Stoltzman perform Sun., Oct. 5, 3 p.m., in Berkeley's Zellerbach Auditorium. (510) 642-9988.



Clarinetist Richard Stoltzman finds a new and unique sonority in Brahms.

Photo: Kent Taylor

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OUT&ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Castro 'n' Sugar

The Castro Street Fair is the most family-oriented gay event in San Francisco. It's the one you don't mind taking your in-laws from Iowa to. It's less of a mind-blower than the Folsom Street Fair, which is good on your parents' nerves and yours. The boys do tend to take their shirts off when it's warm, which it almost always is, but there aren't all those harness straps in the way, making them look like gladiators. They look just like your corn-fed cousins from the Midwest.

One new development at the fair is the creation of the **Sugar Valley Street Fair**, a fair-within-a-fair, organized by one Flower Frankenstein, to be found on 18th Street between Noe and Hartford Streets. There you'll discover 20 tents and a performance area dedicated to showcasing "the best of the Castro art scene," a deliberate, focused attempt to highlight creations/talents by our very own people. Local participating artists/performers include:

Jean Spinosa, actor, choreographer, director and vocalist; performed with Enrique, the Thunderbird Theatre Company, the Tuck'n' Roll players, Mark Eitzel and Undercover S.K.A.; head of performance-art band Surprise Party; www.jeanspinosa.com

Reverend Michel St. Germain, documentary photographer of the SF/Castro club scene; www.reverendmichel.com

Michael Wertz (painter, illustrator, designer, and Go Go dancer, showcasing gocco prints and monoprints: www.wertzateria.com

Isabel Samaras, the original Devil Babe, a painter who puts pop icons in unusual positions; www.devilbabe.com

Scott Barney, president/CEO of Fairy Land, the Burning Man theme camp; host of Sugar Valley chill space; www.playafairies.com

Jim Winters, silk screener and painter who has been immortalizing SF drag Queens for over ten years; designer of the Pepper Spray logo and much more; www.jimwintersonline.com

Tony Meredith, industrial designer and beauty queen; makes lamps out of Tupperware and designer shantytowns out of a simple blue tarp; www.tonymeredith.com

Steven Clark (classical musician and composer; performer with Svelte and lead singer of Dr. Q; www.circusmusic.com

Doug Domonkos, owner of National Product, an art gallery located across from The Center, and a primary hub of the Castro Art Community; find him at the Sugar Valley gas station;

Kirk Matson, tin cutter and flower maker who will be making a tin garden for Sugar Valley;

Jimmy Kaufman, creator of GooHoo (www.goofoo.com); community catalyst who recently published *The Freedom Book* of 100 artists answering the question: "What does freedom look like?"

Electric W.O.M.B., a collective of women of the music and media business; www.electricwomb.org

Flower Frankenstein, proprietor of Scary Hairy Toys, Little Frankenstein's and Kitty Kat's; www.bikinikat.com

Christopher Nash of The Wrong Element, harassers of sacred cows; www.thewrongelement.com

Marc Sanchez, aka Dirty Sanchez, artist/humorist whose goal is to get folks to lounge and sip exotic cocktails under dim lights;

Gabriella Marks, photog who shoots music and musicians in her native SF, plays music with her band, Sinombre; triggerfinger.com

Larry Bob, editor of "Holy Titclamps," producer of the monthly queer spoken word event "Hubub"; www.HolyTitclamps.com

Kreemah Ritz, one of the founding members of the Cockettes, has appeared in 15 major motion pictures, presented to Queen Elizabeth in 1962 as Boy Scout of the Year;

Justin Hall, comic-book maker, including the Xeric Award-winning "A Sacred Text," inspired by the Dead Sea Scrolls, and his current series "True Travel Tales" about the real-life adventures of himself and his no-good friends; www.allthumbspress.com

Bill Bowers, photographer who arrived in SF in 1969 and has extensively photographed the changing gay scene ever since;

The Sugar Valley Hula Hooles (Andy Cowitt, Andrew Waegel, Chris Xiques and Michael Wertz), supergroup composed of members of the Nu-Tone Wranglers, Svelte, and the Pinecones. They play lovely lilting Hawaiian tunes;

Khan Wong, poet, author of the chapbooks *Wounded Apollo* (Hozomeen Press, 1991), *the dream of america* (strangefever, 2001), and *ecology* (noemi press, 2003)

Nell Jehu, SF painter who shows her work locally in cafes and boutiques. Her Sugar Valley booth is entitled "Real Nude Men!" — a favorite theme of hers. T-shirts with explicit yet tasteful designs will be on sale; www.wertzateria.com/nelljehu

Michael Johnstone, photographer, and his Muse, **David Faulk**, AKA Mrs. Vera and Mister Tina; www.tinavera.com



Ploughhound celebrates the release of *Focus on the Candy*. See Friday.

Fri 3

'In Our Names' @ EXIT Theatre

"In Our Names," written and produced by Vanessa Clark, a two-act drama featuring seven covetous socialites, six demonstrating skateboarders, two rambling spirits, one celebrated scientist, and one shipping tycoon who must decide whether he'll run for World Governor. Directed by Kun Shin. The play explores the allure of political and economic power and the impact of physical and romantic attraction on the human endeavor. \$12-\$18 sliding. 8pm Fri & sat thru Nov. 8. EXIT Theater, 156 Eddy St. (btwn Mason & Taylor). Tix/info: 609-6830; www.twoplustwoqualsix.com

'A Bright Room Called Day' @ EXIT on Taylor

La Luna Theatre Collective presents Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day*, directed by Thomas Cooke. Set in Berlin during the rise of Hitler's fascist party in the final months of the Weimar Republic, the play follows a group of friends, artists and political activists who find their moral and intellectual courage tested, ultimately forcing compromise, flight, or bitter resignation. Countering the 1932-33 scenes (and pointedly evoking the Reagan/Bush administration) are contemporary scenes with Zillah, a young self-styled radical who has come to modern day Berlin to escape what she believes is the birth of evil in her own country's administration. \$20. 8pm, Fri & Sat thru Nov. 8. EXIT on Taylor, 277 Taylor St. (btwn Eddy & Ellis). Tix/info: 721-9682.

Ploughhound CD release show @ Tongue & Groove

Local San Francisco rock band Ploughhound celebrates the release of their first full-length album, *Focus on the Candy*. Despite all the band members being gay, Ploughhound prides itself as a "regular-Joe" rock band, eschewing politics for melodic songcraft instead. Their punchy, guitar-driven songs are universal in their subjects of relationships, society, and pop culture. Simply put, this band rocks — especially on numbers such as "Dirty Filthy" and "Paid Attraction." Also playing: The Duds and Romp. \$5. 9pm. 2513 Van Ness at Union. www.ploughhound.com

Sara Shelton Mann's Contraband @ YBCA

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents award-winning choreographer and Wattis Artist-in-Residence Sara Shelton Mann and her legendary ensemble, Contraband, in the premiere of *Monk*, a multimedia work documenting the personal within the collective, set to music by Norman Rutherford and Peter Whitehead, featuring seven of SF's finest dancers. *Monk* tells the story of one person's journey lived through different bodies,

memories and experiences. \$20 & \$25 (\$16 & \$18 senior/student). 8pm (7pm Sun). Thru Oct. 5. Tix/info: 978-ARTS (2878) www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

Mary Wings @ Park Bench Cafe

Opening reception: "101 Views of Precita Park Facing East," in which artist/author Mary Wings documents an urban park. Why 101 views? You can't step into the same park twice. Wings is author of the popular lesbian mystery series *She Came Too Late*, etc., and the LAMBDA award-winning gothic novel *Divine Victim*. She turns her hand to colorful daily and historical interpretations of her neighborhood in watercolor, acrylic, assemblage and pastel. Free. 6-9pm. 3214 Folsom St. Info: 821-9435.

Sat 4

'Salam Shalom' @ New Conservatory Theatre Center

Gala opening: SALAM SHALOM...a tale of passion, written by Saleem, directed by Mike Ward. This GLAAD and Harvey Fierstein Award Winning play tells the story of two men, a Palestinian and an Israeli, who fall in love. For their love to survive, they must transcend deeply ingrained cultural taboos. The play demonstrates the tenacity of true love and explores the articulations between nationalism and homosexuality in the Arab world and Israel. \$38 Gala Opening; \$18; Weds; \$25 Thurs & Sun; \$28 Fri & Sat. Runs thru Oct 26. 8pm Wed-Sat; 2pm Sun. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctc.org

'Tom-A-Palooza II' @ Herbst Theatre

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ presents "Tom-A-Palooza II," a political comedy fundraiser for Tom Ammiano, candidate for mayor of SF. Featuring Yayne Abeba, Tom Ammiano, Connie Champagne, Will Durst, Lisa Geduldig, Doug Holzclaw, Nick Leonard, Lueneil, Karen Ripley, Bill Santiago, and Bridget Schwartz. \$25, \$35, \$45. 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 392-4400; cityboxoffice.com. Info: koshercomedy.com

Other Cinema @ ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents "Life As An Advertisement," a two-hour program on the pervasive insinuation of corporate messaging into every part of our mediated world. Headlining is the SF premiere of Peter Conheim and Steve Seid's "Value-Added Cinema," a 45-min. compendium of product-placement in commercial cinema. Plus commodity-trivia contests, prizes, give-aways, and free Pop-Tarts. \$5. 8pm. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890; www.othercinema.com

Open Studio: Matthew F. Hudson

Gay fine-art photographer Matthew F. Hudson displays new work, including "Faces of Saint Anne," a Mardi Gras series. 10am-60m. 707 Haight St. (at Pierce), Apt. 2. Info: mfh@fool-imagination.com

Open Studio: Steve Savage

Gay photographer Steve Savage, best known for his sensuous male nudes, now takes on the sensuousness of flowers. Come see another side of his work. Since arriving in the Bay Area in 1977, Savage has worked on assignment for numerous publications, including the BAR (staff photographer 1984-94), The Bay Guardian, The Sentinel, The Advocate, Christopher Street, and After Dark. His work also appeared in Time, People, Rolling Stone, The New York Times, Dance Magazine and elsewhere. 11am-6pm. Also Oct. 5. 493 Haight St. (at Fillmore), #4.

'The Hula Show'

@ Palace of Fine Arts

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiū presents "The Hula Show 2003," featuring traditional hula, new Hawaiian chant, and contemporary hula, with live music and guest musicians and dancers from Hawai'i. Interspersed with stories, legends, anecdotes and historical details that bring hula traditions to life. \$25 & \$30 (\$100 for gala, Oct. 11). 8pm (2pm Sun). Thru Oct 12. Palace of Fine Arts Theater, 3301 Lyon St. Tix/info: City Box Office, 392-4400; 800-407-1400; cityboxoffice.com

'Thrive' @ The Center

"Thrive," a group of hot guys; gay HIV+, enjoying each other; coffee and conversation. Donation suggested. 1-3pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia), First Floor.

Sun 5

30th Annual Castro Street Fair

From 11am-6pm on Castro Street and Upper Market St. it's the fun, fab 30th Castro Street Fair, as always raising funds for a host of GLBT service organizations, offering beer booths, community group information kiosks, arts and crafts galore, a wide array of entertainment, and the most beautiful people in the world — you!

On the Main Stage (Market & Castro), emceed by Janet Fly, Donna Sachet, Steven LeMay and Putanesca: "Mighty Real," a salute to Sylvester, featuring the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, Veronica Klaus, The Woofyz, and The Ethel Merman Experience. Also: DJ Licious, Acid Housewife, Drag Kings, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Peppermay, Donna Sachet, Aqua Velvets, and Kimo's 20 Years of Madonna in 20 Minutes. Sundance Country Western Dance Area: Castro Theatre parking lot. Futura's Latin Dance Stage: 18th & Collingwood. Electronic Dance Area: Walgreen's Parking Lot. Produced by Castro Street Fair, a non-profit organization (Steven Gaynes, President/Sponsorship Chair; Richard Carn, Beverage Chair; Gordon Gregg, Beneficiary Committee; Pablo Heising, Executive Director; David Meyer, PR & Website; Rick Thomas, Booth Chair; and Jane Warner, Security). Info: www.castrostreetfair.org

'Sugar Valley Street Fair'

Flower Frankenstein hosts "Sugar Valley Street Fair," a subset of the Castro Street Fair, in which 40 Castro inspired artists take to 18th Street between Noe and Hartford streets, with 20 tents and a performance area featuring the "best of the Castro art scene" including zines, costumes, music and cool art. Highlights: the Cockettes booth, the Surprise Party tent, the Fairy Land chill-out space, Tony Meredith's Chic Plasticine tent, Steven Clark's ambient fair jingle, Jim Winters' Parakeets, Doug Domonkos' gas station, and the digital photo booth hosted by scenester Rev. Michel St. Germain. 9am-6pm. Info: www.sugarvalley.org

Mon 6

'Dog Days' @ Castro Theatre
Winner of the Grand Jury Prize Venice Film Festival, Dog Days

(screening Oct. 3-9) takes place during "a hot and suffocating weekend in the suburbs of Vienna somewhere between the autobahn and the exurbs, the supermarkets and new housing tracts. During these dog days of summer, six interwoven stories unfold, revealing a world of disillusionment, loneliness and frustration... an acid-etched portrait of modern society melting down." With Maria Hofstatter, Christine Jirku, Alfred Mrvá, and Victor Hennemann. Directed by Ulrich Seidl. Written by Seidl and Veronika Franz. In German with English subtitles. \$8 gen'l; \$5 senior/child/matinee (first show of day). Daily: 7 & 9:30pm. Sat & Wed: 1:20, 4:15, 7, 9:30; Sunday (Castro Street Fair Day): 4:15, 7:00, 9:30. Info: 621-6120; www.thecastrotheatre.com

Tue 7

Kirov Ballet @ Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Opening night: For the first time in 12 years the world-famous Kirov Ballet & Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre returns to the Bay Area, with a program of works by Russian choreographer Mikhail Fokine: *Chopiniana* (music by Chopin), *The Firebird* (Stravinsky), and *Scheherazade* (Rimsky-Korsakov). \$42-\$110, 8pm. Also Oct. 8 & 9. UC Berkeley Campus, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave. Tix/info: 510-642-9988; www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra @ Intersection

Jazz At Intersection presents Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra premiering new compositions from composer Shelby's multi-part suite "Port Chicago," Duke Ellington's 1951 "Harlem Suite," and new compositions created from Youth Speaks/City Lights Bookstore's "Spoken City" poetry reading series in North Beach. \$12-\$15 sliding, 8pm. 446 Valencia (btwn 15th & 16th). Tix/info: 626-3311; www.theintersection.org



Photo: Steven Underhill.com
Steve Savage

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Wed 8

John Kelly as Joni Mitchell @ ODC Theater

The extraordinary John Kelly returns to SF for the first time since his legendary run at Josie's as Joni Mitchell in his smash hit "Paved Paradise." Now Kelly plays Joni in a new show, "Shiny Hot Nights," \$20. Wed-Sun, Oct 8-12 8pm (Sat. Oct 11th: 7:30 and 10:30). Tix: 415-863-9834; www.odctheater.org

Nickel and Dimed @ Brava Theater Center

Preview: Brava! For Women in the Arts and TheatreWorks present "Nickel and Dimed," the theatrical adaptation of Barbara Ehrenreich's best-seller *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, adapted by Joan Holden; directed by Dan Chumley. A study of the underbelly of American prosperity as voiced by social essayist/culture critic Ehrenreich.

Ron Coulter, right, and Sidney Star play in "Last Act for Walter Gordon and other plays" Oct. 9-Nov. 16 at Costume Studio Stage, 1119 Market St. Tix/info: 552-6672; www.last-act.com

How do America's low-wage working women manage to feed their kids, pay bills and make the rent? Can someone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 an hour? Smart and funny, the play brings to light the injustices low-wage women face. \$14-\$32. Previews Oct 8-10; opens Oct. 11. Thru Nov. 9. 8pm (3pm Sun). 2789 24th St. (at York). Tix/info: 647-2822; www.brava.org

Thu 9

'Such Tiny Danger' @ 848 Community Space

"Such Tiny Danger," a new dance-theater work by Leslie Seifers and Rachel Shaw exploring themes of danger, intimacy, connection and risk. Athletic dancing, intricate gesture, disparate emotions, eloquence and grace. Experimental video work. More than 50 levitating teacups. Bodies heaving from exertion. The deadly sting of a wasp. The weight of decision. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8PM. 848 Divisadero St. (at McAllister). Tix/info: 922-2385; www.848.com



Leslie Seifers and Rachel Shaw dance with teacups in "Such Tiny Danger" at 848 Community Space. See Thursday.

'Bus Stop' @ Northside Theatre, San Jose

Richard T. Orlando directs the Northside Theatre Company production of *Bus Stop*, by William Inge. A motley group of weary bus passengers become stranded by a storm in a run-down, honky-tonk diner. Flaring tempers, disparate ambitions and wildly varied personalities make for an explosive, often-funny night at Grace's Diner. \$12 (\$10 senior/student). 8pm Thu-Sat; 3pm Sun. 848 East William St. (at 18th St.), San Jose. Tix/info: 408-288-7820; www.northsidetheatre.com

Adam Bock's 'Thursday' @ the Thick House

Opening night: Encore Theatre Company presents the world premiere of playwright Adam Bock's *Thursday*, directed by Kent Nicholson (Director of New Works for TheatreWorks), in which a circle of friends is sent for a spin when a former child star moves back into town after a stint in rehab and gets the homecoming of a lifetime. Jealous boyfriends, fallen trees, overcooked bacon and career greeters populate this world of lonely hearts who learn that life always goes on, even if no one wants you anymore. Bock's *Five Flights* ran six sold-out months with Encore Theatre Company at the Thick House, won the Glickman Award for Best New Play in the Bay Area, a Dean Goodman Award, among other honors. His play *Swimming in the Shallows* played SF, Boston, Ithaca, London, Key West and the Edinburgh Fringe Fest. \$20 (\$15 student/senior). 8pm Thu-Sat; 5pm Sun. Thru Nov. 2. The Thick House, 1695 18th St. (btwn Arkansas & De Haro). Tix/info: 821-4849; www.encoretheatreco.org

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The number of syphilis cases in San Francisco has increased 1000% between 1999 and 2002...

Stopping Syphilis

among gay & bisexual men
in San Francisco
a community plan

Executive Summary

Almost all new syphilis cases in San Francisco are among gay and bisexual men. Other cities around the nation and internationally have also seen dramatic rises in syphilis within their gay/bi communities.

The Sexually Transmitted Disease Section of the San Francisco Department of Public Health has been moving aggressively to combat the reemergence of syphilis. Gay community organizations and individuals have also been working to respond to the new syphilis epidemic. However, while our efforts are showing progress, the number of new cases continues to grow.

This plan requires the mobilization of city government, community organizations, and gay and bisexual men to overcome the increasing syphilis epidemic in San Francisco. It is only through the full participation of all those concerned and affected by this disease that success can be achieved.

The fact that syphilis has been shown to facilitate the transmission of HIV makes the goal of syphilis reduction that much more compelling. Gay and bisexual men, be they HIV+ or HIV-, have a vested interest in detecting and eliminating syphilis in our community.

THE BASIC FACTS

1 Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that is passed from one person to another through skin-to-skin contact during anal, oral or vaginal sex, when syphilis lesion/sores are present (even when unseen).

2 Open sores in early syphilis make it 2-5 times easier for HIV transmission to occur.

3 Early symptoms (1-12 weeks after becoming infected, usually within three weeks) include a painless ulcer or sore at the site of infection – the penis, scrotum, anus, vagina or mouth.

4 Possible later symptoms (4-24 weeks after becoming infected, usually within 12 weeks) include one or more of the following: body rash on the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet or a generalized body rash, fever, swollen glands and flu-like symptoms.

5 Left untreated, syphilis can cause severe headaches and hearing and vision loss as well as permanent heart and brain damage.

6 All symptoms will go away even without treatment, but one is still infected.

7 The test for syphilis is a simple, accurate blood test whose results are available in a few days.

8 Syphilis is curable.

THE PLAN

Decrease syphilis cases in the gay community through:

- Increased community awareness
- Increased syphilis testing
- Motivated early treatment
- Increased symptom recognition
- Increased healthcare provider participation

Increase health promotion

- Continue HEALTHY PENIS social marketing campaign.
- Expand Internet outreach online and in gay chat rooms.
- Continue to build coalitions with community businesses such as bars, sex clubs, adult bookstores and Internet sites.

Expand syphilis testing and monitoring activities

- Initiate free online testing program – www.stdtest.org
- Provide training and laboratory support to community organizations to make testing more accessible.
- Increase testing at events, bars, sex clubs and other community sites.
- Continue tracking the epidemic by investigating cases and collecting necessary data. Provide partner notification services for clients who require assistance.

Enhance clinical services

- Broaden the use of antibiotics (such as azithromycin) for preventative therapy.
- Increase azithromycin distribution through sex partners and field outreach.

Facilitate citywide medical provider participation

- Educate and motivate private providers to routinely test, examine and treat patients for syphilis.
- Distribute patient educational materials to providers, including HIV and early care clinicians, public clinics, emergency departments and other key areas of hospitals.

Policy Initiatives

- Support policies that result in improved sexual health for gay and bisexual men, including a Gay Men's Health Bill of Rights and same sex domestic partnerships.
- Promote screening guidelines – testing every 3–6 months for men with multiple sex partners.

Evaluation

- Monitor program activities/services quarterly to measure usage – clinic visits, tests administered, etc.
- Carry out client satisfaction surveys.
- Conduct surveys to determine changes in awareness, knowledge and behavior.

THE STRATEGY

The best way to stop syphilis is for those who have it to be treated and cured. Those who have been exposed, and infected but do not yet have symptoms should receive preventive treatment.

Gay and bisexual men who are sexually active with multiple partners should get tested for syphilis every 3 - 6 months. If everyone did this, those who had syphilis could be treated and we would be well on the way to eliminating it.

Preventing the spread of syphilis is difficult because it is easily transmitted through most types of sex - oral, anal and vaginal. Using condoms reduces risk, but does not eliminate it. Avoiding having sex with anyone who has syphilis sores will help, but it is not always possible to see the sores.

The full text of this plan is available online at www.HEALTHYPENIS2003.org

This plan was developed by the Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Control Program of the San Francisco Department of Public Health in collaboration with the following Community STD partners.

Community STD Partners Committee

David Bandy	Jim Lukes
Buzz Bense	Marcel Miranda *
Nate Birjukow *	Guiliano Nieri *
Stewart Coulter	Les Pappas
Michael Discepola	Jorge Partida
Steven Gibson	Kevin Roe
Jed Herman	Jacqueline Siller *
Don Howard	John Stansell
Charlotte Kent *	Frank Strona
Jeff Klausner *	Steven Tierney
Michael Krassner	Wendy Wolf *
Deb Levine	Will Wong *

*Department of Public Health, STD Program

Sponsoring Community Organizations

AGUILAS
Black Coalition on AIDS
California Dept. of Health Services - STD Control Branch
Good Vibrations
Harvey Milk Institute
HIV Assessment and Prevention service (HAPS)
HIV Prevention Planning Council
MAGNET
New Leaf
St. James Infirmary
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Spikes Coffee & Tea's
Stop AIDS Project
The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association
The Stonewall Project
UCSF AIDS Health Project
UCSF AIDS Health Project - REACH Program
Walden House

WHAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN DO

Prevention

The most effective way to prevent syphilis is to be certain that the people you have sex with do not have syphilis. This can be accomplished by talking with your partners, getting a test and encouraging those you have sex with to get tested.

Proper use of latex condoms will reduce your risk in both anal and oral sex. Reducing the number of sex partners will also decrease your chances of getting syphilis. You can avoid sex with anyone who has symptoms, such as sores on penis, mouth or anus, but someone may have symptoms that you can't see.

Testing

Sexually active gay/bi men who have multiple partners should be tested for syphilis every 3-6 months. If you think you may have had sex with someone who had syphilis or if you have symptoms, get tested and treated right away.

Treatment

If you get syphilis you should stop having sex and get treated. If you continue having sex while being treated it is possible to get reinfected or infect others.

You also have a responsibility to tell your recent sex partners that they may have contracted syphilis from you. You can contact them yourself or you can give their name to the Health Department and they will confidentially contact them for you.

Preventative treatment with an antibiotic called azithromycin is available to give to your previous sex partners and sexually active friends. If they are infected with syphilis bacteria but do not yet have symptoms, this drug can help prevent them from developing an active syphilis infection. If they do have symptoms they will need to see a doctor.

Advocacy

Finally, we can all take on the job of making our community more aware of the current syphilis epidemic. You can speak with your doctor. You can tell your friends and sex partners what's going on. Pass this plan along or tell people about our web sites.

“...take on the job of
making our community
more aware...”

RESOURCES

FOR FREE & CONFIDENTIAL TESTING / TREATMENT / INFORMATION

City Clinic
356-7th Street, San Francisco
Testing: Mon-Wed-Fri 8am-4pm
Tues 1pm-6pm
Thurs 1pm-4pm
Phone: (415) 487-5500
Online syphilis testing at www.stdtest.org

MAGNET
4122-18th Street, San Francisco
Testing: Wed-Fri 4pm-8pm
Sat 1-5pm
Phone: (415) 581-1600
www.magnetsf.org

Positive Health Program West
3180-18th Street, Suite 301, San Francisco
Testing: Mon-Fri 10am-2:30pm

CDC National STD/AIDS Hotline
1 (800) 342-2437 24hrs day/7 days a wk

Web Sites
www.HEALTHYPENIS2003.org

*Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
www.cdc.gov*

*California Department of Health Services
www.dhs.ca.gov*

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Leather folk rock!

Julian Marshburn chosen Mr. SF Leather

by Mister Marcus

They came, they saw, they pigged out, they helped keep San Francisco green (by dropping big bucks). The thousands of leather people who came to San Francisco to help celebrate the 20th edition of the world-famous Folsom Street Fair all departed happy, gorged, and satisfied once more (or for the first time).

Leather pride week in San Francisco was a smashing success for all concerned. Charities benefited from the largesse of visitors and natives alike. Leather celebrities were here to enhance efforts by tax exempt groups; porn actors and other attractions managed to convince many to part with their hard-earned bucks to support worthy causes.

There were art auctions, play parties, grand banquets, boot gatherings and a contest that launched yet another star in the firmament of leather titles when Julian Marshburn was chosen Mr. San Francisco Leather 2004.

High-ranking leather titleholders were here en masse to celebrate the new addition to their ranks, and scores of volunteers helped events run smoothly at every turn.

Unlike last year, the weather cooperated and Folsom Street was awash with both dressed and undressed people celebrating their kink(s) with gusto. From the Leather Walk the previous Sunday to the last wistful glance at the Valley of the Kings it was a glorious celebration for leather people from all corners of the world.

The 12th street stage saw almost 100 leather title holders introduced by International Mr. Leather John Pendal and the new Ms. World Leather Goddess Lakshmi. The colorful pastiche of title vests, title sashes, title belts and medallions of victory flashing in the sunlight was captured by a horde of legitimate paparazzi and crazed amateurs alike.

Bartenders and food servers ably met the crush of humanity that descended upon them in a voracious sweep. Cash registers were ringing to the beat of musical groups that ground out a raucous steady beat as pleasure seekers gawked, groped, sniffed and licked the ever moving crush of humanity in outrageous costumes. A heterosexual couple from Dubuque, Iowa (who accidentally landed in the midst of it all) was aghast at the scene — and promised they would return next year! And just



Mister Marcus

Julian Marshburn (Mr. Daddy's Leather 2004) was chosen Mr. San Francisco Leather 2004 at the contest held last Saturday, September 27 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel.

think, next year, the Folsom Street Fair will be 21 years old. You know what happens to anyone who turns 21. Be prepared for a wild fling!

Julian Marshburn wins it all

The Mr. San Francisco Leather 2004 contest at the Ramada Plaza Hotel on Saturday night was a resounding success. Mr. SF Leather 2003, Troy Anicete, graciously stepped aside after a brief, but insightful speech and his last official act with the title was to drape the gold medal around the neck of Julian Marshburn (Mr. Daddy's Leatherman) who grabbed the gold ring to become the 26th man

to hold San Francisco's highest ranking male leather title. The first runner-up was Keith Folger, Mama's Leather Man.

Whoops, hollers and squeals of delight rang through the Grand Ballroom of the Ramada Plaza Hotel.

The ticket buyers were once again this year afforded a chance to cast ballots for their favorite contestant, and most agreed it was not easy to make a choice. Besides Julian and Keith, Darryl Jansson, Damon Holzum and the study Stafford Hemmer were a delight to behold as they romped through the judged categories with witty answers to humorous and serious questions, leather image displays, 90-second speeches and the ever-popular "physique" display.

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, October 2

It's live wrestling at the Powerhouse tonight at around 2200. Jump on those mats! Singlets provided for those who dare!

Weekend, October 3-5

Golden Gate Guards MC annual weekend run to beautiful Camp Mendocino. The theme is "Moo En Rouge," so expect a lot of cow action. Moo you! Moo me! Moo them!

In Asbury Park, New Jersey, that cute Ross DeRose steps aside to sash his successor for the Mr. New Jersey Leather contest. This year, a Ms. New Jersey Leather will be chosen as well. Check out www.leathernjonline.com.

Mr. New York Eagle Leather contest at that

revered bastion of leather on the East Coast. Vern Stewart producing. Watch here for the results!

Tuesday, October 7

Bondage Buddies get all tied up in themselves at 933 Harrison from 2000-2300. For info, call: 777-HEAD.

Weekend, October 9-13

Another major leather competition at the Suncoast Resort in St. Petersburg as all the regional winners of International Leather Sir/boy competitions pick a winner. Good luck to all.

The 10th Annual Queer Biker Invasion of Death Valley, with a visit to Zabriskie Point. Try www.well.com/user/mcpysle/qbidv03.htm.

POLKSTRASSE

Fair maidens

by Sweet Lips

As you know, the Castro Street Fair will be taking place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. this Sunday, and it's always a great time. The weather is usually pleasant, and everyone is in a great mood. There will be lots of arts and crafts, beer booths, community booths, and live entertainment on several stages.

Meanwhile on Polk Street, things are pretty quiet. We're a close-knit community, and everybody knows what everybody else is doing.

Manly Lennox is having her stepping-down party as Ms. Gay SF at Midnight on Saturday, October 18 at Club Rendez-Vous. She is one of the original cast members of the 'Til Friday shows held every Friday night at 10:30 p.m. and Midnight. This party

should be a blast, so don't miss it!

And speaking of Club R-V, David Ryan and I tend bar there each week, Sunday through Tuesday, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. I gave you the wrong days in my last column, so sorry if you came by and we weren't there to greet you as we'd like.

Thank you, L. James, for getting all the memorabilia together for me. You're a sweetheart!

Dick Deemer is back from Fire Island and is getting ready to go see his Ramon in Puerto Vallarta — possibly buying a house! May they live dreamily ever after!

Bart Dreyer and Jim Doan spent the week in Portland and Seattle, where they had a great time. And speaking of Portland,

the royal coronation will be taking place there the weekend of Oct. 18-19, and can you believe Mame is celebrating her 40th year as Empress?! She must have been 15 years old when crowned!

Dee Dee and her David spent some time with me, and both are such great people! Yes, Dee Dee is still tending bar at the very popular Aunt Charlie's Lounge on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, so drop in and join them for a good time. Just remember: with her, clean fingernails are required!

That's all for this week! Have a great Castro Street Fair, and remember to let me know if you've got special events coming up for the holidays so that I can put them in the column. Ta ta! ▼



Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

IML John Pendal wasted no time endearing himself to the audience, thanking Americans for taking "Fergie" off the minds of the British population. Snatch and two hunks made for a spirited and sexy number, and Pride Idol Marianne Kooken knocked 'em dead with two upbeat renditions. About half a dozen "hunks" in the audience were randomly selected to compete for "The Hottest Leather man" in the audience in a brief interlude that had the audience in stitches.

After that, the Mr. SF Leather Contest committee assembled on the stage and each read aloud the praises, admiration, thankfulness and caring exhibited by this year's Unsung Hero. Bedlam erupted in the house when Powerhouse Bar manager, Scott Peterson, was announced as the recipient. The audience reaction was immediate and Scott was taken by surprise by the announcement. Good choice!

Finally, tally master Tim Wong, (who implemented a foolproof scoring system for the judges who cast their votes on Palm Pilots) brought the results to the podium. Yes, that genteel man from North Carolina with great looks, great physique, sincere manner and also a stand out on the current SoMa Bare Chest Calendar (he's Mr. October 2003), Julian Marshburn was medaled, sashed, and accorded the lauding reserved for every winner of this San Francisco title.

Well-wishers rushed the stage, cameras flashed and the other ti-



The Leather Empress "Snatch" incorporated two hunky hunks in her number at the Mr. SF Leather 2004 contest.

thholders made Julian welcome to their ranks. The lauding continued the next day at the annual leather brunch at the home of Donna Sachet and Bob Brunson.

It was a glorious, fun-filled, profitable Leather Pride Week in San Francisco. If you missed it, there's always next year. For the moment we can only sit back and re-live those awesome moments of the past 168 hours, when the world (and especially the leather world) once again enjoyed leather pride in The City That Knows How! ▼



A face from *Prisoner of Paradise*

Mill Valley Fest

◀ page 36

meant it was time to get out of Germany. Kurt Gerron was a successful Jewish actor/director who lacked Wilder's foresight. Sent to a concentration camp, Gerron struck a bargain with his captors, making a film that supported the Nazi lie about how Jews were being treated in a so-called model camp. Malcolm Clarke and Stuart Sender illustrate the insidious elements of the German "final solution" and recall a tragic figure. A Holocaust film for people who can't stand to see another Holocaust film. (Rafael, 10/11, 12)

Attitude SF veteran Rob Nilsson's



Attitude: down-and-outer w/AIDS

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Coming out singing

Lesbian, gay, bi and trans recording artists out on disc, part 1

by Gregg Shapiro

Happy Gay and Lesbian History Month! The latest crop of releases by queer artists from the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities should get you through the end of the year with no trouble.

Peaches sings, "I don't have to make the choice/I like girls and I like boys" on "I U She," a kinky bisexuality mantra from her new album *Fatherfucker* (Kitty-Yo/XL/Beggars Group), the eagerly anticipated follow-up to *The Teaches of Peaches*. Expertly straddling the worlds of punk, hip-hop and electroclash in thigh-high platform boots, Peaches is even riper on this album than she was before. She spits a pit in our eyes

as she rants "I don't give a fuck" over Joan Jett's "Bad Reputation." She raps about her labia majora, "soft as angora," and knocks us out "like Rocky Balboa." She goes head to head with Iggy Pop on "Kick It," on which they quote each other like old friends. Once again, Peaches sends it out to the men, boys, girls, women and ladies on "Shake Yer Dix." She duets with Taylor Savvy on "Stuff Me Up," on which they encourage the listener to "eat a cookie/eat a big dick everyday" and "eat a cookie/eat a big clit everyday," and sings the praises of anal sex for men on "Back It Up, Boys."

Bisexuality is also the focus of *Bi the People: A Compilation of Bisexual Artists & Friends* (Violent Yodel). Compiled by Skott Freedman, who also contributed the

track "The Price You Paid," the various-artist disc benefits the non-profit Bisexual Foundation. Other contributors include Jill Sobule (the sexy and funny "Saw a Cop," about being pulled over by a female police officer), Laura Love ("If You Leave Me"), Melissa Ferrick ("Fighting Chance"), Bitch and Animal (the Eminem-slammimg "Secret Candy"), Tom Robinson ("Boy Girl"), Jewel tour opening act Anne Heaton ("Black Notebook"), Pansy Division (the oldie "Luv Luv Luv"), Carol Burnett's daughter and bi disco diva Erin Hamilton (a dance cover of Kiki Dee's "I've Got the Music in Me"), queer Celtic artist Ashley MacIsaac ("Sleepy Maggie"), openly gay *American Idol* contestant Jim Verarros ("I Want You") and the ubiquitous Rachael Sage ("What If").

Pie in the sky

The Pie-Love Sky (Big Head) by bisexual singer-songwriter Jodi Shaw was produced by Steve Addabbo, who co-produced Suzanne Vega's first two albums. It's hard not to draw comparisons between Shaw and Vega, but Shaw does emerge as her own person. From her acoustic interpretation of Yaz's "Only You" to original folk tracks such as "The President Knows" and "Is," the sky's the limit.

Creative and life partners Drew Daniel and Martin Schmidt return with their group Matmos' latest effort, *The Civil War* (Matador). After working with some other "high profile" artists, the electronic sound-collaborists once again set a higher standard for the genre with this album that touches on the American Civil War, the 1660 English Civil War, and civil wars closer to home. Matmos' interpretation of "The Stars and Stripes Forever" has the potential to inspire flag-waving in even the most unpatriotic listener, or

marching at the very least.

Openly gay JS Adams of Blk W/Bear collaborated with Mark Beazley of Rothko on *Wish for a World Without Hurt* (Trace), which addresses the events of 9/11 and is intended to serve in remembrance of that day. Very experimental and difficult, this funeral disc may not be the most accessible piece of music that you have heard, but it is hard not to have some sort of response.

Sounds from the Bedroom (Spitshiny) by \$3 Putsa is the sound of electroclash clashing with itself: beat-box rhythms, synthesized melodies and buzzing guitar. In songs such as "Dyke Magnet" and "Punk Rock for Fashion Fag," Raquel Contreras and Rodolfo Garcia share their concerns with images, identity and socialization in the LGBT community with a hint of humor and more than a touch of truth. They also raise the issues of being in the queer performance world.

Preacher Gone to Texas, an Iowa-based hardcore "scremo" band, has the potential to reach both straight and gay fans with

their album *Choice Vs. Chance* (Sinister Label). Add the bonus of a couple of openly gay band members, including totally cute guitar player Matt Moody, and everyone will be happy. A reprieve arrives in the piano-only closing track "One Scream: Motive for Movement," and although I don't have a mothering bone in my body, all I want to do is offer vocalist Matt Johnson a thermos full of hot tea with lemon and honey.

A queer punk revival is in full effect with new releases by Super 8 Cum Shot and Pansy Division. *Burn Your Rainbow* (Spitshiny) by Skinjobs also deserves a place at the table. With songs about non-conformity, queer love, queer recruitment ("We're queer and we're recruiting — now!"), and how queer history and rock 'n' roll are on the same plateau, Skinjobs get their point across, loud and clear. Five of the hidden tracks are spoken-word bonuses, and the fifth is a song about "the lesbians of the Skinjobs." These genuine punks put hetero poses such as Good Charlotte, Sum 41, and Something Corporate to shame. ▼

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Family in WWII-ravaged English countryside in *An Angel for May*

Mill Valley Fest

◀ previous page

mouth in an Albany landfill. (Rafael, 10/4, 10)

An Angel for May Tom (newcomer Matthew Beard) is a young English boy who flees his divorced mother, accidentally slipping through one of those Harry Potter time-portals that deposits him into the WWII-ravaged countryside of Yorkshire. Tom forges a strong bond with a strange little girl whose fate will haunt him after his return to the present. (Rafael, 10/9; Sequoia, 10/12) An odd companion piece pops up in the 5@5 Shorts program, *What Goes Around, Comes Around*, in which Udo Kier gets to play a still-feisty Adolf Hitler in drag, hiding out in a bomb-damaged London slum awaiting a money order from Martin Boorman in Argentina. (Sequoia, 10/8)

Bedwin Hacker In director Nadir El Fan's pop thriller, a female Tunisian computer-hacker uses her skills to goof on European television signals. The film uses its techno angle to cast a penetrating light on the bid of North African societies, especially women with attitude, to bootstrap themselves into the digital age. (Rafael, 10/8; Sequoia, 10/12)

The Dingo's Got My Short Film This darkly funny Australian shorts program traffics in dead dingoes, dead people and a dead-on smart attitude about the sickest aspects of family life. Particularly enjoyable: *Sniffer*, in which a young man's science project helps him grieve a dead dog while getting sweet revenge on a nettlesome aunt; *Hit*, where a young woman agonizes over assassinating her annoying mother. (Rafael, 10/4, 5) ▼

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Big Mac, Sam, & Fine Muscle Steve... I'm your "Gardner". I think you both are so fucking sizzling Hot! It would be nice to one day take a break and hang out in the hot tub... Naked!!! Is it possible! Signed Gardner, in Hilly Oaktown USA ☎ 72806

"Missed Connections"
Rick, the cock worshiper in Alameda. I live near the lake. We got together and partied. You came and picked me up. Didn't write correct phone #. Let's do it again. ☎ 72811

Guerneville B/31
You on dark beard. We should have talked. I'm sorry I left. The Rainbow. ☎ 72812

Both Of Us Were Walking....
Eastward on Market near Church, around 6pm. You looked at me when I walked into Ace Hardware and I smiled back. ☎ 72823

Dolores St. Sep. 8 Moonlit Night
You- out for a walk. We glanced. You turned and waited for me as I got into my car. I looked back and drove off. Crazy moon! ☎ 72824

TheaterRhino, Sun-Matinee, 9/14
You: BM, front row. Me: WM up steps in back. Our eyes met. We smiled & nodded "Hello". You made my day. Can I see you smile again? Pls. call. ☎ 72835

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GWM 50's seeks younger GWM 18+ for friend, companion, jo buddy, to go places with, to talk to, spend time with, who likes affection, to cuddle, mutual jo, maybe more. ☎ 72817

GJM 50 Near Lake Merritt,
Seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. No one ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. ☎ 72825

Dirtyoldman Needs Someone Bad!
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Husky, heavy, easy going W/M 50, HIV- ISO horny bottom 25-40, HIV- who loves to make love with his mouth for hours. Tits, pits, back, buns, balls, all. Esp like Latinos, Italians. ☎ 72813

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Masculine, muscular, Italian topman looking for buds to hang with. Dinner, movies, football, politics and travel. Need a vacation? Be masculine and fun. 30-50. ☎ 72836

Top Sks Bottom
Solid, well hung, Silver Fox wants lovin all over- huggers & kissers with bubble butt gets ride of lifetime. ☎ 72808

WLM 48, 6', 165lbs, Dark Hair
I enjoy being with mature men over 60 who like lots of affection & oral pleasure. Husky/ heavyset, bearded a plus. No gay scene, drugs but smoking, light drink ok. ☎ 72837

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Wild Freedom To Be Ourselves!
Gdkng, eager GWM, 5'8", trim, masculine, suntanned, HIV-, seeks men into intimate sensual/safe sexual exploration. Included: piercings, tattoos, rituals, longhair, foot/mudity fetishes, roles, fantasies, j/o. Fun/friendship. ☎ 72800

Santa Rosa Native
GWM, 42, 5'10", 170lbs. Ex-navy, mobile home owner. Enjoys chess, tennis, drumming and outdoors. Seeks relationship. ☎ 72801

Party Of Four
Attractive White and Asian couple seeking similar for foursome or switching partners. We're smooth, trim, versatile, and love sex! ☎ 72802

Naked Man Needs A.M. Training
Looking for stocky dom, fun top 40-50 who would like to walk in on tall attr 40 yo bottom. I like being spanked, clothes pins, tit work, teach me to take it. Weekday mornings only. ☎ 72803

"Who Wears Short Shorts!"
Seeking guys with "Great Legs" who love to wear shorts. I want to make love to your legs. Smooth and tan a plus. ☎ 72805

Respectable Senior Will...
Total oral servicing for hirsute Irish, Scots, Welshman over 35 and over 5'9". No reciprocation. I host. ☎ 72818

Dominant, Endowed Black Gentleman, 49, 5'9", 180lbs, balding, mustache. Seeking submissive, mature Latino gentleman with dark skin, dark hair and mustache for good times. Phone required. Serious only please. ☎ 72819

TS 4 Black Men East Bay
Black young men generous mature smooth pretty bottom nice titties, will give you head and let you take her pussy. Blond/White. ☎ 72820

Seeking Built Hairy Cockucker
Who's single hairy men, rip work, dick play, and 69ing as much as me. I'm poz, muscular, very hairy, 50's, 5'11", 185, GWM. If good match, let's play often and become buddies. ☎ 72821

Desire Thick Cocked Average/
Masculine guy. Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, phallic worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long moderate to heavy partying scenes only. ☎ 72827

East Bay Bear!
53, 6', 220lbs, hairy. Looking for regular sex buddy. Into sniffing, licking, sucking, fucking, j/o, talking dirty. Hairy+. Not looking for ltr. ☎ 72828

Naked Role Play
Lean masculine dominant guy 44 seeks lean guy younger or same age for fantasy play involving you being stripped naked and following orders. No pain or unsafe sex. ☎ 72829

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 5'8", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role-playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 72830

"Big Chubby Men!"
Wanted by bi versatible top bear, 43, 5'9", 225, beard, hairy, for weekday lunchtime/ daytime meetings. You are 30-70, 225+, bottom or versatile. We are both HIV-, clean. ☎ 72831

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Boy Needs Stern Discipline
Bottom boy, 5'10", 160lbs, bl/bl, 37y.o. seeks dominant and strict discipline to provide punishment with cane, strap, whip, switches, etc. I am serious. Sex optional. ☎ 72804

Smart Masc W/M 45 Oral Expert
Seeks to service W/M 24-55 hung oral tops, ex jocks, bus-man who crave attn between legs, armpits, foot body massage. Like sweaty guys after your workout, sucking you through your sweet jock pouch, hot hole playing. Coach, dad-son, kick back on Monday nite football for regular service. ☎ 72822

Stroking For Hours
Seeking masculine/ average guy for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship. Drinking/ partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long moderate to heavy partying scenes only. ☎ 72832

Can Dad Train This Wild Boy?
Bottom guy, 39, single, 5'8", 155lbs HIV+ masc, gd lkgs seeks to meet masc, disciplinarian, 40-60yrs. Into oral/anal relationship, v/a, beatings, please you, serious. ☎ 72833

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Cleancut 38yo Asian, ISO heterosexual Caucasian couple who wants a third party to spice up sex life. Am STD Free, very curious and a willing participant. Let's have fun. ☎ 72805

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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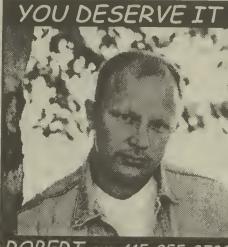
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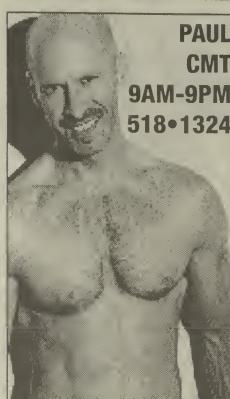
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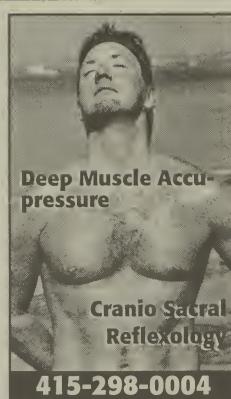
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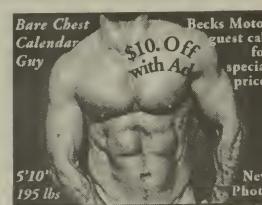
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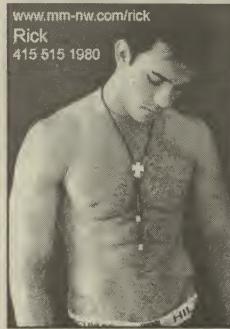


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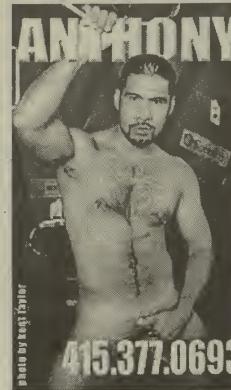
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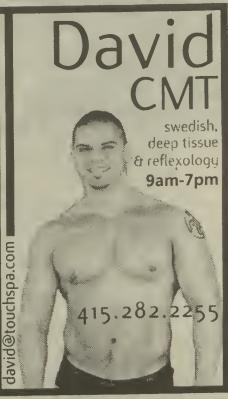


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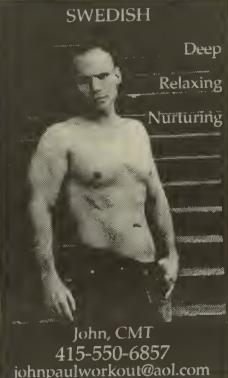
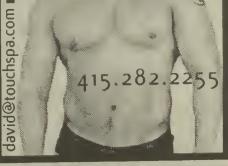
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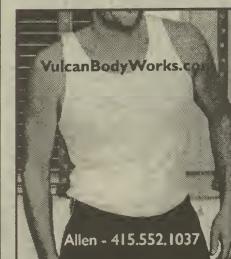
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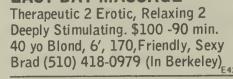
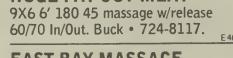
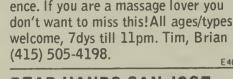
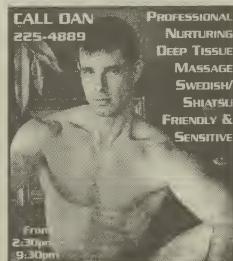
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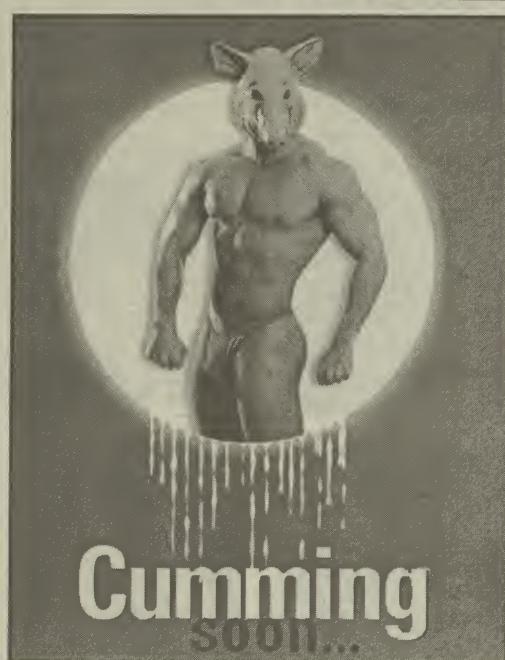
THANKS TO THE MR. SF LEA. 2004 COMMITTEE

for a job well done. Your show was
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The judges did a good job and we are
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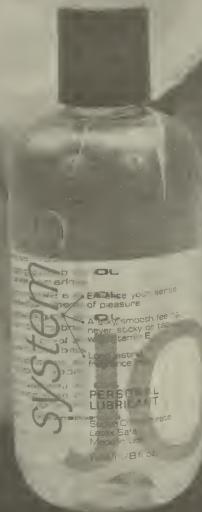
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